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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Lombao's lament: Media report only police errors

By Luige A. del Puerto and Blanche S. Rivera

VILLAGE: It's a close-up of Shaddai to luck.

El Shaddai leader slams CPR policy

Bro. Mike angered by dispersal of prayer rally

By Christine F. Esguerra and Jaime Laude Jimenez

THE INFLUENTIAL LEADER OF the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai yesterday blasted the police dispersal of a prayer rally last week and warned President Macapagal-Arroyo that her tough stand on dissenters was fueling political instability.

"Bro. Eddie should not be used against the elderly," said Bro. Mike Velarde in his first public expression of displeasure at Ms Arroyo, to whom he is reportedly close.

"The suppression of prayers either led by responsible religious leaders is a clear sign of disrespect to faith and beliefs which must not be tolerated by the Global and the people regardless of religious affiliation," said Velarde.

Velarde, whom El Shaddai group claims is following of five million, said the more shocked and angered by the police dispersal of the march led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, 77, and Bishops Bruguerios Magsaysay, 64, Antonio Tobias, 64, and Felix Xavier Lalaguna, 59. Members of leaders were arrested during the operation.

Archbishop Bernardo Cantillo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philip-

CONTINUED ON A2

ITCHING: President Macapagal-Arroyo points to her watch to prompt the government television crew to speed up the program so she had to rush to another appointment. The show, featuring military and police generals, showcased security issues amid a rise in street protests.

People fed up with protests, says GMA

By Christine O. Avendaño and Armando N. Nocum

THREE DAYS AFTER POLICE used a water cannon to break up a religious procession, President Macapagal-Arroyo met with police officials to discuss security measures for the observance of All Saints Day on Nov. 1.

She ordered to Friday's dispersal and the political uproar it provoked, ostensibly only expressing Ms Arroyo said people were fed up with protests.

"I'm asking everyone to continue with their work, avoid participating in illegal assemblies and those activities being pushed by those with selfish vested interests and whose only objective is to bring down the country," the President said to Filipinos.

But Junior Secretary Raul Gonzalez was the usual self, saying some of them were nothing more than publicity seekers.

"I am appalled ... that this had to happen, but I do not condone the reaction of the police because they're being pushed to the wall. Maybe ... yung sila nag-aano-uyan ng salag or guwa pa-

CONTINUED ON A2

CHR tells cops: Protesters were not terrorists

By Norman Bordadora, Leila B. Salaverria and Tina G. Santos

THEY WERE ONLY A FEW HUNDRED MEN, were not terrorists and could not have driven President Macapagal-Arroyo out of the Palace.

In worst, the police could have allowed them to cross into Mendiola (Jose Chino Avenue) Bridge—which had symbolic power to the protesters—and then kept them within San Beda College rather than would post no danger to Malacañang.

Commissioner Wilfredo Sevinan of the Commission on Human Rights made these observations in an interview with the Inquirer yesterday to drive home his point that Friday's forcible dispersal of a Dimwitted protest march was Malacañang would have

CONTINUED ON A2

Opposition says Palace out to control media

By Michael Lim Ubac

PLACING THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission under the supervision of the Department of Transportation and Communications is a move by President Macapagal-Arroyo to control media and telecommunications firms, the opposition lawmakers claimed yesterday.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Representatives Rolex Suplico and Teodoro Casiño (Bayan) filed House Bill 6 Arroyo had ordered by transfer of the NTC to the DOTC through Executive Order No. 454.

When she signed it on Aug. 15, the President said the executive order "shall take effect immediately."

"There's only one motive here—to gain more power to control not only media entities but also telecoms," Escudero said at a press conference.

The NTC regulates telecommunications firms and broadcasting companies.

Escudero said the administration had long wanted to "regulate" text messaging because it was allegedly being used to destabilize the President.

Apparently fed up with the accusation being drawn up by the opposition, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the opposition stand for calling its bona "exercise paranoia."

Escudero said Mr Arroyo, through the DOTC, could also "arrogate unto and modify" MTC decisions in the interest of its cause-packed functions.

Escudero noted that the title of the executive order, "Transferring back the Municipal Telecommunications Commission (MTC) under the supervision and control of the Department of Transportation and Communications," said it all.

CONTINUED ON A2

QUIZAN: Ex-Marine general turns to "spiritual warfare."

Warrior is now preacher

By Fe Zamora

FRANCISCO GEOARE JIAS embarked on a new career as a preacher, turning from being a "gallant marine to be the soul" into a "soldier for Christ."

He has been a lifeline and whatever nothing basic to sing a Christian, said the newly-retired brigadier general, who let the Steadfast Isle Last month when he drifted as a radar not to appear at a Senate hearing on the alleged ir-

CONTINUED ON A2

BACK TO THE GRASS ROOTS

Members of some retooled and progressive groups meet at UP Diliman in Quezon City for the "Working People's Summit" to map out their "collective people's response" against the Arroyo administration. Left to right are UP president Francisco Nemenzo, the group plans small pockets of protest in nine countryside. (Story on Page 4A.)

Breakthrough: High-yield rice that grows on dry soil

AFTER DECODING THE RICE genome, keeping one of the world's most important cereals productive despite climate droughts is seen a key boon of global research, according to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

The institute, which is based in Los Baños, Laguna, said a study this year had concluded that dry spells—more than floods or typhoons—were the primary stressing threat in Asia where around a fifth of all the crop growing is rain-water-prone to drought.

"Coping with recurrent drought is a part of life for millions of Asia's rural poor," the institute said in the latest edition of its journal Rice Today.

In 2004, widespread severe drought in much of Asia led not only to agricultural production losses of hundreds of millions of dollars but also pushed millions of people into poverty.

Since then, research has identified many new varieties that not only produce high yields under good conditions but also 2-3 tons per hectare under conditions so dry that many popular varieties when in Dawa tons per hectare.

Gene-breeding scientists has produced the first generation of the so-called "aerobic rice" strain, like corn, grows on dry soil, instead of in flooded paddies, the institute said.

This year, was produced "in crossing modern high-yielding varieties, which respond well to

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WEATHER FORECAST
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Second FRONTPAGE

Pact would allow Aussie troops in RP

ZAMBOANGA CITY – AUSTRALIA AND THE Philippines have begun negotiations on a "status of forces agreement" that would allow Australian troops to be stationed in the country for the purpose of training Filipino forces.

"All are negotiating a status of forces agreement at the moment. I hope that will be completed in the next few months. It's been through a number of drafts already," Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill told The Associated Press here yesterday.

The United States is the only other country to have signed such an agreement with the Philippines, and provides the bulk of support for training our Filipino troops.

"In the era of terrorism, when we have a joint threat, we think we can do more," Hill said, adding that Australia was currently providing training to Philippine police and "we're looking to increase support for the Philippine Armed Forces as the front line against the threat."

Hill met with Lt. Gen. Ildefonso Ishiro, chief of the Southern Command, and said they could also be "further training and support for special forces, particularly in language [and] communications work." He did not give details.

Australia and the Philippines still boast intelligence exchanges and now train active-liners, focusing on the infiltration of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) militants into Mindanao, Hill told reporters.

Gutierrez, which has shown deep concern over the activities of Islamic militants in the southern Philippines since the 2002 Bali bombings, already provides training for about 60 Philippine soldiers a year in Australia.

A handful of Australian officers are based in Philippines to train their counterparts in bomb-investigation techniques. The two countries have also held regular counter-terrorism exercises at sea and on land since they signed a defense cooperation agreement in 1995.

"We are worried about the possible infiltration of JI in the region (this week there was) info the southern Philippines," Hill said. "The group is of threat to the whole region including to our selves (Australians)."

While it had no comment on Hill's statements, Malacañang yesterday welcomed the Australian government's decision to suspend Philippine visitors to detect the cross-border movement of terrorists.

"We welcome the overtures from Australia for an intensified cooperation under the principles of mutuality and convergence," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

Australia moved to tighten its Philippines after military intelligence reported that the license of the 2002 Bali bombings had been seen in Mindanao along with associates in the Jemaah Islamiyah, a number of Australian tourists perished in those bombings.

The most combined all the roads to fight terror — global cooperation and improved vigilance with a strong antiterrorism bill that will bolster the detection of terrorist cells, make them easier to arrest and keep them from entering their territory," Bunye said.

Australia has been actively helping governments in the region track down members and leaders of it, which has also been blamed for last month's bomb attacks in Bali that left 20 people dead.

Regional intelligence officials, as well as the US government, believe that two October bombings staged for the Bali bombings are linking out to Mindanao. An $11-million bounty has been offered by the JI government for their capture.

The JI operatives are believed to be responsible not only for the Bali attacks but also terrorist group, which is blamed for a series of high-profile kidnappings and the country's worst bomb attacks.

Philippine military officials told Hill during his visit here that there were 66 suspected Jemaah Islamiyah militants and 500 Abu Sayyaf guerrillas hiding in Mindanao. – AFP, Inquirer.net, Cobcobyanan Jr., AP, AFP Reuters

Senate got fewer ballot boxes than House from ARMM

By TJ Burgonio

BIG ARY BALLOT BOXES DISPUTE: duplicitous returns disappear in transit to Congress from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao after last year's presidential election?

The discrepancy was stepped up yesterday when the Senate found out that instead of receiving exactly the same number of ballot boxes from the ARMM as the House of Representatives, it received only 66, three less than the 69 received by the lower chamber.

The discrepancy came to light at the Senate inquiry into the alleged disappearance of 130 ballot boxes in the Batasan complex in Quezon City, that some supposed to have been delivered over to the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

The discrepancy takes on significance because it involves election returns the ARMM, the region where the alleged poll-rigging scandals centered on the "Hello, Garci" tapes were supposed to have taken place.

House Sergeant-at-arms Bienvenido Ibiñez and Deputy Secretary General Antonio Adasa barged off from the hearing, citing a related case before the PET.

The inquiry was recalled out of session by Minority Leader Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel's privilege speech on Sept. 27, calling for an inquiry into the alleged disappearance of ballot boxes which he said could jeopardize the electoral protest of former Sen. Gregorio Legarda.

Legarda, running mate of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. who lost to President Macapagal-Arroyo in the official count, has a pending protest case against Vice President Noli de Castro, whom she accused of vote fraud before the PET.

At the inquiry, the Senate secretariat, upon the request of Sen. Joseph Estrada III, reported that the department received 69 ballot boxes from the ARMM provinces of Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. The win fewer than the 69 ballot boxes received by the House, Legarda's lawyer, Sixto Brillantes, pointed out, citing House's records.

Ostrella said that since both chambers had nearly the same number of ballot boxes, "The discrepancy could be in the transmittal of the Senate."

"If that's the case, the anomaly came from the transmittal of the Comelec personnel to the Senate from the ARMM, maybe there are several election returns from ARMM which are missing," Ballantes said.

Pimentel commented that since the discrepancy appeared to be slight, the implications could be grave because the three missing boxes contained 75 election returns representing the votes of 25,000 voters.

In view of the discrepancy, Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the inquiry, directed the Senate secretariat to obtain a formal statement of fact in the House. He thanks the Commission on Elections and the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) for their support for the Senate probe, to which he responded "with great generosity of spirit and impeccable technical sense," Arlan recounted.

The "Barbie-ing Filipina" doll, which went on sale for $1,000 (Php46,000) originally $1,300 or 2P22,000), was one of 27 dolls auctioned off under Unicef's "Adopt a Doll and Save a Child" vaccination campaign.

Most of the buyers were members of the Czech business community.

Unicef's Czech Republic Chief Christel proposition said a total of 89,000—roughly equivalent to the cost of vaccinating 175 children in developing countries, the DPA said.

With those costing $50 per child, the money could be protected from the "six most deadly diseases" — diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, tuberculosis and hepatitis, according to the Unicef website.

For the past 20 years, vaccines have protected nearly three-quarters of the world's children against major childhood diseases, said Unicef. Yet every year, more than two million children still die from diseases that could have been prevented with inexpensive vaccines.

Filipino doll fetches $1,300

By Pok Cosmovar

A BARBIE SHE MAY NOT BE, BUT A GIRL carries the name nevertheless.

A doll dressed up by Philippine fashion guru Oliver Tolentino emerged among the biggest sellers at a recent United Nations fund-raiser, fetching $1,300 to help life-saving vaccines for impoverished children throughout the world.

Called "Barbie-ing Filipina," Monday's auction at the Czech Republic's Parliament barely embellished plus fabric at the chic, 12-inches held by the UN Children's Fund or Unicef. The affair was held at the Parliament of the Czech Republic's National Museum in Prague, according to a report from Ambassador Carmelita Salas released by the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

The only two higher bids went to dolls designed by the Italian fashion house Prada and Israeli Nikkal Regina, both highly popular brands in Prague, the envoy said. She did not say, however, how much they fetched.

The Philippine Embassy had approached Monsen to lend his touch and represent the country's support for the Unicef project, to which he responded "with great generosity of spirit and impeccable fashion sense," Salas recounted.

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More students may have faked way into college

By Akoni Pogo

AT LEAST 32 HIGH STUDENTS WERE found to have falsified the results of their high school graduation exams so they could get on to college, the Department of Education said yesterday.

DepEd officials in charge Gaudencio Antay Jr. Richard said the National Educational Testing and Research Center had received complaints that the documents submitted by 32 students, aside from La Salle basketball player Rich Rosales, in their college, had been allegedly doctored.

METRC director Nelia Bernas confirmed to Philippine Daily Inquirer Education Philippines that the certificates of Rating (SOPUS), together with that of Rosales' graduate, were false.

The SOPUS is an examination a student may take "to obtain or of a high school diploma." It is administered by the METRC.

Bernas did not identify the students or their schools or say if any of them were athletes.

She said that former DepEd Assistant Secretary Mona Banez had started an investigation on the matter. Banez could not be reached but it was stopped after he left the department. She added that the students in question had refused to talk to investigators about the issue.

"We will continue with the investigation. Then we'll decide on the usage of the documents. We don't want to be a "Hello" here," Bolalgo said, referring to the scenario in the Inquirer's poll where it is said anyone can get any document for a price.

She also did not discount the possibility that the students themselves were in on the hoax job. "We need to find out if the doctoring was done by the students or if they were in collusion with an insider."

Bolalgo said that if the investigation revealed that DepEd employees were involved, the department would not hesitate to file the corresponding charges.

As for the liability of the schools in question, Bolalgo said they would have to determine if the documents were received by the schools "in good faith."

She said that DepEd had issued a memorandum calling on officials to scrutinize closely the documents submitted by their students.

Recently, officials of De La Salle University admitted that one of their basketball players, Rich Rosales, had submitted spurious documents to the school. Rosales graduated from the De La SU administration has offered to return the UAAP 2004 basketball championship trophy.

Noli orders halt to demolition

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO HAS ORdered a temporary halt to the demolition of disaster along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City in the wake of a clash last week between a group of squatters and demolition crews of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

De Castro told the Inquirer he had instructed the Home Guarantee Corporation, the agency tasked with relocating the 35 squatter families in the area, to initiate a dialogue between the remaining squatters and the MMDA before the demolition of the remaining portion could be followed. At least 53 families had already been relocated peacefully prior to the clash, De Castro said.

De Castro said the squatters and the HGC had agreed that the squatters themselves would dismantle their shanties on their own to salvage some materials for use in their new homes in the relocation site in Norzagaray, Bicol. Last week, however, the MMDA crews proceeded with the demolition work immediately upon their arrival, forcing the angry residents to fight back.

"It's not saying no problem. Pag-uusapan natin pero pero gusto nila ako ang huhumay ang mag-aalis ng mga bahay with ang problema ng mga tao," De Castro said in Filipino, referring to the MMDA's plan to relocate the squatters outside the city.

The Vice President, however, denied a television report that he had ordered a stop to all squatter-clearing operations in Metro Manila. He said he could not order the MMDA to stop its own clearing operations, such as those for road widening, as he had no power over other agencies such as the HGC that fall under the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, which he chairs.

– Cynthia R. Rodano

Defense pushes Erap transfer to San Juan

By Nelson P. Flores

THE LAWYERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to allow his transfer from his Tanay, Rizal, detention center to his San Juan, Rizal, domicile, home to facilitate their preparations for his hearing court appearance.

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag told the court the distance between Tanay and Metro Manila made it difficult for the defense lawyers, as well as potential witnesses, to confer with Estrada on matters concerning his defense.

After the hearing, Saguisag told reporters the "distance problem" could be remedied by transferring Estrada to his Polk Street home. He said security would not be a problem since the residence was easy to secure.

Saguisag said Estrada would be taking the witness stand soon and it was important that he be given every opportunity to prove his innocence.

"That is part of due process," he said.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio agreed but he said Estrada should be transferred to Polk Street but back to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where his security could be assured and his health could be monitored.

Villa-Ignacio pointed out that it was Estrada's own lawyers who had sought his detention in Tanay.

Deputition Rep. Aurelio Gonzalez, meanwhile, affirmed yesterday the earlier testimony of Cavite Gov. Ginggo Remulla that Estrada had filed a leave of absence in a letter to both houses of Congress at the height of the Edsa II revolt of January 2001 that threw him out of office.

The testimony of Gonzalez, who was House Speaker when Estrada was ousted, bolstered the claim of the defense that the former Chief Executive was permanently deprived of his presidential immunity when the government filed plunder and perjury charges against him in 2000.

Estrada's term, according to his lawyers, ended in 2004.

Villa-Ignacio declined to cross-examine Gonzalez, saying his testimony was irrelevant to the case against Estrada.

RP measure on Somalia gets UN nod

THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY Council has approved a Philippine-drafted resolution aimed at averting a fresh wave of violence in Somalia, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The 15-nation Security Council on Saturday unanimously adopted Resolution 1519 after Swiss-citizen Ambassador Laura Dupuy de Philippines' permanent representative to the UN. Resolution 1519 orders the UN arms that monitor the enforcement of the arms embargo in the embargo/Somalia.

The resolution was prompted by reports of increasing violations of the arms ban, said Baja, who chairs the 751 Sanctions Committee on Somalia.

In its most recent report to the council, UN monitors cited a sharp rise in embargo violations over the past six months, reflecting political tensions between the Transitional Federal Government and opposition forces, and threatening residual and resilience between with widespread violence.

The resolution underscored the need for the continued monitoring and tightening of the arms embargo by calling for the reestablishment of the watchdog group and giving it six more six months, the DFA said.

FOR CONTEXT

El Shaddai leader slams CPR policy

Continued on A7

plaza, defended the presence of bishops and priests in Friday's rally, saying they were "acting according to the best of their understanding, out of conviction and deep faith."

But he said that a prelate, "while exhorting his flock to assert their rights, must always remind them that Christians are obliged in all cases to reject vengeance and to be prepared to forgive and to love their enemies."

The 70-year-old Capalla went to seminary from Rome, where he was attending a synod of bishops. It appeared to be an attempt to defuse tensions amid an announcement by organizers of Friday's event that the Church-led group would march on Mendiola again on Thursday.

The El Shaddai leader seemed to be making the same effort.

Velarde called on the Arroyo to withdraw immediately her policy of "calibrated preemptive response (CPR)" that had led to a rough police crackdown on protesters in recent weeks and last controversial Executive Order No. 464, banning officials from appearing at congressional hearings.

"I am encouraging all concerned leaders on both sides to come to the conference table to fashion principled cooperation for the sake of our suffering people and for the survival of our democratic tradition," said the 66-year-old bishop.

Offer to mediate

"I am willing to mediate and find a common ground. I plan to talk to her about withdrawing those two—the CPR and EO 464—for the Senate must also show some kind of reconciliatory action," he said in an interview with the bishops.

"The CPR policy adopted by the administration is not a deterrent to further street demonstrations but rather adds fuel to the present political instability," Velarde said. He said the policy is clearly a violation of the rights of the citizens.

"The Filipino psyche is strong young Aquinos (don't provoke their anger)," he said.

"I was shocked, initially, on the first channel when it was clearly seen on television where the police [were] stationed on the perimeter who used to be our protectors who now pushed to the ran," Velarde said.

"And I had talked to the President. I said 'I myself viewed it on television and I was angered by it.' And because of this our [Archbishop's] Secretariat have requested our bishops, and he [the bishop] also called the bishops in Manila, to come to a meeting next week. There's a letter that we must ponder upon. That may occasion the need for further guidance from the bishops and pastoral leaders."

Velarde earlier proposed some kind of a power-sharing scheme where opposition members could be appointed to the Cabinet. He had talked about his initiatives with detained President Joseph Estrada, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Sen. Vicente Sotto and other opposition leaders.

Leader wins enemies

"If good leader wins enemies in her side, one pushing down away and creating more enemies," he said.

"If the administration will just open up to sources I think we'll be able to strike a very workable compromise," he said.

"Those who are here on pulling feet down are also looking for a workable solution because they see their interest really in for the common good," he said.

Velarde said that the Senate should release National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales as a gesture of goodwill.

The official was cited in contempt for refusing to answer questions on a P30-million contract with the Subic-based lobby firm President (LP) to secure US funding to assist the Philippine Constabulary. Critics said it violated foreign interference.

Following the Senate's rejection of repeated calls for the release of Gonzales, the President issued the ban on attendance at congressional hearings. He said the hearings were but a continuation of attempts to use her for Mr Arroyo escaped impeachment last month over allegations she made last year's election—a charge she has adamantly denied.

The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) also criticized the police action, warning that if the government could do it to another Church leader, ordinary citizens would prove to be much easier victims.

"The PPCRV condemns the unwarranted public degradation and physical threat displayed by members of the Church hierarchy," said the group, the Church arm whose

SHOCKED and angered by the police dispersal of last Friday's prayer rally, Bro. Mike Velarde has called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to withdraw her policy of calibrated preemptive response (CPR), just two months ago at the Quirino Grandstand, the President attended Mass celebrating the 73 in anniversary of El Shaddai which coincided with Velarde's birthday. EDDIE JR.

Gonzales goes on medical leave

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER Norberto Gonzales, at the center of a political firestorm between President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Senate, has asked for a medical leave and got it, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

Bunye said there were no instructions to replace Gonzales, who is reportedly suffering from a heart ailment. But he ruled the possibility that an officer in charge would be named to this office.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, chair of the blue ribbon committee that cited Gonzales in contempt, said the move as "overdone" and gave no indication Gonzales would be incarcerated in Senate custody.

"A medical leave may not mean a leave from his job. Why don't they just follow the (contempt) order, identify the donor and the next minute we will release him?" said Enrile.

The maverick administration senator said Gonzales and Malacañang had first asked for an executive session, then executive privilege, had sent even a medical letter. "What is this? They are playing with words."

Arroyo's insistence had riled Gonzales in contempt after he refused to respond to questions during a hearing last month into an agreement he signed on July 20 with the US lobby firm Mirabile LLP to tap American funding for Mr Arroyo's project to amend the Philippine Constitution.

Critics said the move invited foreign interference in a sovereign undertaking.

Malacañang has accused the committee of shabbily treating Gonzales, who suffered from hypertension as a result of his grilling, prompting his confinement at the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City under Senate custody.

Repeated attempts by Malacañang to secure the release of Gonzales fell on deaf ears.

Following the rebuffs, Mr. Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 464, banning government and military officials from attending congressional hearings. Palace officials said the inquiries were nothing more than a continuing attempt to unseat Mr Arroyo, who earlier escaped an impeachment attempt over allegations she stole last year's election.

Gonzales has gone to the Supreme Court with a petition for a writ of habeas corpus for his freedom.

Bunye himself argued before the high tribunal against his release, insisting that Malacañang either provide answers to the Senate queries on the Mirabile deal or appoint a representative to attend senate hearings. Christine O. Avendaño and MPC Correspondent

Continued on A7

faith and beliefs because no matter what provocation they might have done, the response is not right, "he said.

Velarde said the attack on the procession could make the Church against the administration. He refused the morning of Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr. to have lasted a harder with the "Holy Spirit" and she could not win.

"The bishops cannot really keep quiet this time. It will polarize the Church. And the outcome will not be good," he said.

Velarde said that if the bishops come up with opposition on the incident, he would be obliged to support them.

Bishop Bacani said he expected the CBCP permanent council to discuss Friday's incident in a meeting next week. "There's a letter that we must ponder upon. That may occasion the need for further guidance from the bishops and pastoral leaders."

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Continued on A7

400,000 members mention elections. It was established by the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and has seven bishops on its board of advisers.

Sison, an alliance of around 20 Catholic organizations nationwide, said it was appalled by Mr. Arroyo's "hideous arrogance" in dealing with protest actions.

Troopers like mad dogs

"The increasingly violent and brutal harassment of protesters by Chavit's storm troopers is like a mad dog's desperate effort to escape death by its own poison," Sison convenor Fr. Ben Mendiola told the bronzers yesterday.

"Those joins the majority of the Filipino people in condemning in the strongest possible manner the violence dispersed by the military of the president's ally last Friday."

Also yesterday, Rep. Satur Ocampo accused Mr. Arroyo of declaring an all-out war against Moros when he was neglected on the masses police broke up Friday's protests.

He said he was invited to join the rally although he admitted that the group had been in the forefront of protests.

"I accept that challenge," declared Ocampo. "We are all legal avenues...Congress, Supreme Court and the parliament of the streets—to bring down a fascist, corrupt and illegitimate regime."

With a report from Rachael Lim Obac and Lodge A. del Puerto

CHR tells cops: Protesters were not terrorists

Continued on A7

been needed.

"Our findings show that there were only around 200 participants in the procession. It doesn't take a (CHR) commissioner to say and observe that 200 can't be enough to force President Macapagal-Arroyo out of Malacañang," Soriano said.

The CHR had 11 personnel in the area to monitor developments and their implications on human rights.

"We understand that Malacañang is the seat of power but there are not terrorists. Force should not have been used," Soriano said.

Maximum tolerance

Soriano added that the presence of former Vice President Teofisto Guingona in the gathering should have alerted the police into treating them as called calibrated preemptive response (CPR) names to deference to him.

"It's sad. The attendance of former Vice President Guingona should have prompted police officers to remain in maximum tolerance," Soriano said.

The CHR is scheduled to meet with Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Lomibao on Wednesday and with officials of the Bureau of Fire Protection, whose firemen turned the jets of water on the protesters.

Was there a fire?

"We want to know why they allowed themselves (to the arrest). What were firemen doing to really be taken. Their job is supposedly to put out fires?" Soriano said.

"We want to know who ordered their presence there."

POLICE hose down demonstrators led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Rep. Satur Ocampo and Fr. Robert Reyes Friday. EDDIE JR.

Director Ed Matrinig, head of the CHR public information office, said he/she should not have been armed, whether or not there were rifles in the public assembly.

"They should not have used force unless there was a clear and present danger," Matrinig said.

Freedom fighter

Friday's forcible dispersal violated the memory of the freedom fighter after whom the historic bridge had been renamed, according to Gen. Alfredo Lim, a former Manila police chief.

Speaking at the Espiñas in Mendiola forum, Lim also said the use of water cannons on the rally attended by Guingona and three former Catholic bishops was "unsalled for," pointing out there had been no violence to warrant such action.

Lim described the late Joaquin "Chino" Roces as a humble defender of civil liberties.

"Does this mean we are turning our backs on the memory of Don Chino Roces?" he asked during the forum. "We name the bridge after him and yet we don't give importance to its meaning."

The former also said that in his days as director Chief Supt. Police Batasang Pambansa present, he said.

Lim, who in his time as a police officer also had confrontations with militants, said the police and the protesters should see eye-to-eye with each other as comrades.

Arienza's video footage

The policemen would not have "overreacted" had Manila Police District director Chief Supt. Nelson Batasang been present, he said.

Lim, who in his time as a police officer also had confrontations with militants, said the police and the protesters should see eye-to-eye with each other as comrades.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who had declared Mendiola a security zone, said the footage and the religious images the rallyists were carrying when Bronzes found down the group were spared from the water blast.

Atienza defended the use of a water cannon to quell the protest and showed the media video footage of the incident taken by the police.

No disrespect

The footage showed Guingona, former Executive Secretary and Gen. Oscar Orbos and Gen. Jaudy Madrigal being drenched.

"Contrary to impression created by some reports, a review of the footage of the incident showed that the bishops did not join the breakaway group in which the police turned the water cannon," the mayor said. "That footage clearly disproves the allegations that there was an apparent disrespect to the procession and the members of the clergy."

Atienza said the bishops voluntarily separated from the breakaway group in which the police turned the water cannon," the mayor said. "That footage clearly disproves the allegations that there was an apparent disrespect to the procession and the members of the clergy."

Atienza said the bishops voluntarily separated from the breakaway group to attend to people hit by a breakaway group intent on going to Chino Roces Bridge, saying they wanted to go to Luneta.

No apologies

"A commission erupted. What do you expect the authorities would do? They would think of ways to ease the situation and pacify the protesters. Then would they control such a heated, emotional situation [and prevent a riot] getting out of hand?" Atienza said.

"The role of law has to be maintained all the time."

Atienza said he was sorry the incident happened but added quickly: "But I'm not apologizing. There is nothing to apologize for. We just don't want such incidents happening in Manila."

Atienza also said that the city council would soon enact an "ordinance" that would ban demolitions during presidents' defining the city's freedom parks.

"We can never allow rallies to be held near Malacañang Palace. This, too, will be cited in the ordinance so we could avoid incidents of the past," he said.

Cut down on calls–GMA

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS ordered all public employees to change their "telebudget" ways after the government racked up P3.75 billion in phone bills last year.

The President ordered the Department of Budget and Management to strictly monitor the government's phone expenses to ensure that only official calls were paid for.

"My report all government agencies to strictly implement our standing austerity measures. Modern information and communication technologies should be rationalized for speedy and smooth government transactions. Once this materials the quality of service are shifted to the people," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Malacañang issued the directive yesterday after a Commission on Audit report showed that the government's phone bills jumped to P3.75 billion in 2000 from P2.28 billion the previous year.

The bulk of the increase was traced to the heavy use of cellular phones by the national government (up 261 percent) and local government (up more than 300 percent).

Aside from cutting down on phone usage, Bunye said the President encouraged government employees to use alternative communication tools that were cheaper and more efficient.

The President was referring to the use of "Voice Over Internet Protocol" technology, which allows computer users to communicate in data (chat/fax) voice and video formats.

GEC Cabacungan Jr.

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Muzzling Philippine press won't be easy–Nemenzo

By DJ Yap

MUZZLING THE PHILIPPINE press in the dry and age is not impossible if the government is really intent on imposing control here, according to Bienvenido F. Nemenzo of the Philippines president Francisco Benitez.

But he said it would not be easy.

Two messaging used the latest technology to virtually impossible to control the flow of news and information, unlike in 1972, when mobile phones and personal computers were for the most part of science fiction, Nemenzo, the chair of Lahing ng Mitsa, a broad coalition of opposition groups.

President Macapagal-Arroyo might be reminded by the idea of controlling the media—and what is being said about her government—but she could be forgetting the "weapons of the word," Nemenzo said.

These weapons are simple communication technologies ranging from text messaging to Internet chat and e-mail, which were not available during the martial law period under former President Marcos, he said.

"In the 1970s, confidential or hand me word of mouth. Now you had a 'fax gap' on the mainstream media, Nemenzo said.

Today, he stressed, you still be able to control newspapers and television stations, but this will find it very difficult to control. SMS (short messaging service or texting (especially with millions of text texting) and mobile phone-toggled Filipinos, he said.

Someone said the government might be flooding the idea of a takeover of mind as, therefore "a state of national emergency" but if could strike ally by targeting the media, particularly those critical of her administration.

He said this was to lead an idea of imposing martial law. "But the might be seen enough to do that."

He said imposing martial law would not work because Mr Arroyo's situation was not comparable to Marcos'. He noted that Marcos had full control of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 1972. In contrast, Mr Arroyo's command over the military is crumbling, he said.

"She might only be pseudo-ing" her enemies, including those in the Armed Forces, Nemenzo said.

He has proposed installing a "revolutionary transitional government" that will be supervisory of all sectors and remove power from the elite, in the event that Ms Arroyo is ousted.

Yesterday, he headed the "Saving Philippine Economy," which sought to go back to the grass roots in solving the country's ills.

Attended by hundreds of community leaders from sectoral coalitions and non-governmental organizations, the summit, held in the campus of EDSA, called issues covering women, urban transport workers, peasants, fisherfolk, Muslims and youth.

Nemenzo said his group was planning small pockets of protest in the coming days to counter the government's more aggressive treatment of dissenting voices.

They "calibrated people's response" will show that the forces no longer enjoys the support cut only at Libya Mendiz but of the whole countries, he said.

Opposition says Palace out to control media

AFP Reina Sopiea shows a copy of Executive Order No. 454 placing the National Telecommunications Commission under the control of the Department of Transportation and Communication.

In the executive order, Ebdane pointed the transfer "by virtue of the powers vested to me by law," citing Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987), which "grants the President continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the executive branch."

The NTC was created in 1979 under the "supervision and control" of the DOTC's forerunner, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. In January 2004, supervision of the NTC was transferred to the Commission on Information Communications Technology.

However, Mr Ebdane said transferring the NTC back to the DOTC "will streamline functions not supervision."

Possible violations

Lucero pointed out that the executive order violated two laws—Rule 44 of the Rules of Court and the NTC's Charter Republic Act No. 7925.

Rule 44 allows final judgment of cases resolved appealed to the RTC to be questioned before the Court of Appeals whether the "appeal involves questions of fact, of law, or mixed questions of fact and law."

RA 7925 says the "DOTC shall not exercise any power, which will tend to influence or reflect a decision or a result/decision of the commission's quasi-judicial functions."

Secretary of the DOJ, defenders of the NTC "are now appealable to Malacañang," thus "everything is controlled by Malacañang now," he explained.

Before, the DOTC had more supervision over the agency, "now it has additional powers to control it," he said.

Going overboard

For his part, Gutierrez said Mr Arroyo was now going overboard in her attempt to quell resistance among Filipinos.

He cited as questions and the closing of the DOJ hotlines, saying that the DOJ had not been even published.

"We still know and challenge Malacañang to be transparent so that the rest of the people will be so, too," he said. The last time an EO such as this was issued was during Marcos' time. The Palace should release to the public all EO that issued since (2001)," he said.

(With reporters from Gil Cabacungan A9)

DBP

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Non-Financial Advisory Services

Warrior is now preacher

(From page A1)

reformation of the military in the rigging of the May 2004 elections.

"Being in Chamber means losing or retaining," Gudani said during a fellowship with the Building Bridges Christian Ministry in Makati on Sunday night as he began his work as a preacher.

But the soldier-turned-civilian could not be disappointed as he was tackled his mission with military purpose.

A "good disciplined" Islam he took to quiet matters, so much like "bringing food to the front lines," Gudani said.

He described his ambition more as "spiritual warfare."

Brother Frank

Gudani, a Samsung Tagalog with a 3 minutes Philippine flag patch on his left sleeve, Gudani said he decided to be fellowship simple as "Brother Frank."

Gudani, who said he preferred to be simply called Mr Gudani, sang and clapped in the beat of the hymns. Gospel songs "Lord Lead Me" and "Revive Us Again."

In his Senate military committee hearing of July 20, Gudani said he was one of the generals mentioned in the controversial "Hello, Garci" tape, the "intercepted telephone conversation in which Presidential Macapagal-Arroyo allegedly directed an election commissioner to help fix the 2004 presidential election.

Just hours after the hearing, Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, Armed Services of the Philippines chief of staff, relieved Gudani from his post in order to undergo treatment at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

Lt. Col. Akiz Ibrahim, who also appeared at the Senate, was relieved as assistant commander of PMA cadets.

Gudani was the commander of the Marine brigade with jurisdiction over the Jamer areas, while Ibrahim was a battalion commander under Gudani during the May 2004 elections.

Gudani and Ibrahim face possible court-martial proceedings for insubordination. But no formal charges have been filed against them yet.

Brush with death

A 1973 PMA graduate, Gudani said he accepted the Lord" when he was a battalion commander in 1984.

He said he was ambushed by Communist rebels and "brush with death, but the first time that he "declared God boss," he said.

Gudani even commissioned during his exercises to "show up, so I can see my shooting skills."

His life has changed dramatically after he became born-again.

Birthday celebrations

He stood open reciting the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Oct. 4, a birthday which was marked by more fanfare than his past birthdays.

"I celebrated my birthday on [with] God-worshipful, recalling how friends and fellow servicemen lined him for coming out with the truth.

One of the birthday parties was held at Chaquico's, a music bar on Makati avenue which is rented into a "warship jubilee" every Sunday by the Building Bridges Christian Ministry.

Accompanied by a guitar, Gudani sang "People Need the Lord," a song about how living as Christian values can fill one's life.

"Communicating Jesus, and the singer," Gudani asked before breaking into song.

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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Breakthrough: High-yield rice that grows on dry soil

(From page A1)

fertilizer, with traditional but low-yield rice that grow on dry soil.

Some fears are now being raised in drought-prone areas of Asia, the field can said.

Poll-saving, the hoodwinkers supporting of the rice genome, scientists have also created more than 40,000 varieties on which chemicals or radiation were used to knock out random segments of the rice chromosome.

The resulting plants, which the scientists call "skeleton mutants," are screened under drought stress in the field, or with the application of drought-related hormones in the laboratory, to identify drought-resistant or drought-susceptible mutants.

Work is also under way to identify which defined genes are responsible for the effects, it added.

The rice plant traditionally requires lots of water during its reproductive stage. It needs water on dry, it reduces production of gibberellin, the hormone that stimulates the panicle, or flower, to fully emerge. If not the leaf sheath, as well as pollen infertile. This is called recalcitrant yields.

The impact of dry spells is often felt throughout Asia region. Adversely affecting the farm and economy, the paper quoted various agricultural economist Isabel Bradley as saying.

And if the local economy isn't functioning well ... you have a cumulative effect," Bradley said.

"When people are unable to pay off their loans, they go deeper and deeper into debt, ultimately losing their land and whatever else they own, and become completely destitute."

AFP

PROTESTERS clench their fists during a torch parade to call for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Quezon City on Monday.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo slightly loses her ballet grace while in visit the heavily constructed PNR outpost, the Batasang Bansang and "Turnkey Phase" project in Diliman, Barangay Pasong Tamo, Quezon City.

FVR to elderly protesters: Don't let yourselves be used

By Nikko Dizon

FROM ONE HERO OF EDSA TO fellow elderly—Ramos

Former President Fidel V. Ramos yesterday advised former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and other elderly protesters not to allow themselves to be used by the "inconsistents" of the campaign to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Senior citizens of this country should not allow themselves to be used for hurting activities of such individuals that I now their people or rule out issues," Ramos said in an impromptu press conference.

Ramos arrived from Hong Kong after attending the Asia Education-affinmation Beijing, China.

"The only outcome one can see, however, especially the Philippine National Police, [is] situations which are very complex and difficult and would almost certainly have a negative impact on the government," Ramos said.

The former President said that there were not only "ring leaders and masterminds" hiding behind the backs of Guingona and other prominent protesters.

Creating mileage

"[They were] using people to create mileage for their activities," Ramos said.

Guingona, three elderly Roman Catholic bishops and other prominent personalities were still base their protest rallies on the Supreme Court decision declaring illegal the arrest of detained Senator Antonio Trillanes IV.

Ramos challenged the anti-Arroyo masterminds, including those financing the protests, to come out from behind the elderly protesters and be the ones "up front" in the rallies.

Asked if he would name the masterminds, Ramos replied in Filipino: "Edsel Ikaw na [Edsel, you, that's why I am saying this, so they would come out."

Still, Ramos said he has not lost the right of Guingona and the other senior citizens to join street protests, if they wanted to.

Nothing new

He brushed aside Guingona's statement that the incident resembled the protesters' human rights and that they would file a complaint before the United Nations.

"What does it mean? There are thousands of people from 110 countries who claim that their government have violated their human rights. We have our own human rights commission here. Perhaps the embassy is free to refer [to] Ramos said.

But Ramos also advised the Arroyo administration to "control itself, its credibility, integrity and order" in light of the incoming street protests.

"The government must also find the proper and tolerant way to control any situation so that it will not go out of hand," Ramos said.

He said police should "be persuasive" and not "calibrated," he said.

Taking the initiative

Ramos said the government should initiate talks between officials and protesters to avoid violence from both.

But for the retired Armed Forces general, unending the Constitution is still the best way out of the current political crisis.

"What's the best solution to this? The unconstitutional Charter change, let us donate the Charter according to the spirit that it is designed for—free, lively, joyful," Ramos said.

"It should not be donated like the tenor in the zarzuela or young to end his life," he said.

People fed up with protests, says GMA

Front page 1

ngo jose para maka-diserve sila ... Iyong mga nakaupo sa gobyerno [who were appointed with the consent of the Senate] ... sila ay dapat [they should] tulad sa mga pinuno," he said.

Malacañang has not seen evidence yet, Arroyo "justified," Lagumbay said he was not sure if it was a "coup d'etat attempt" or "mutiny" to what was described as a "parody" ball rally.

"They may have over-reacted, so we should investigate it," he said.

Asked whether Fidel's incident could affect the ties of the Palace with the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, Lagumbay replied: "It could, but not to the extent that, certain relationship that have to be taken."

Lagumbay said the government can lay on to both and let those people walk all over it," he said, when asked if the government would now accept protesting to the point of "irresponsible, reckless" policy or disorders.

He said the President would soon be speaking to send fences with CBCP officials who maintain an "open line" of communication with the Palace.

Lagumbay said the government is but led to "bend over backwards" to give the protesters all the leeway to freely exercise their rights.

Gonzales also stressed the three bishops and all those who took part in the rally of "hypocrisy," saying they acted in "bad faith" when they applied for a permit for Plaza Miranda but later proceeded to Mendiola.

To prevent another incident, he asked the bishops and the opposition to adhere to dialogues with the Palace to set parameters for future rallies.

But he said that should be premised on the protesters promising to comply with the government's "no permit, no rally" policy.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye also assured thanks to a statement by Bishop Antonio Tobias on Sunday that the government's policy on protesters was barring the bishops to take a unified stand against the troops.

No fight with Church

"There is no such thing as a looming fight between the Palace and the Church," Bunye said in a statement.

"We call upon the people not to join the so-called religious procession of members of political parties who have threatening for earthly powers," Bunye said.

"Don't be used by those pretenders and hypocrites," he added.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Friday's rally was not safe for seeking peace and unity.

Referring to the presence of Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and other groups identified with the left at the rally, Ermita said: "Kasi are led now than this group has suddenly become very religious as they joined the parade and bishops. Iannot to be detractors of the President?"

"I think it's teaching our kind. Ugnay sa sociedad—Did the 'left' [Ocampo] are only religious activity with a political component," he said in an interview were dull to ask.

Ermita asked protesters not to provoke and challenge the authorities. Be another group planning to march on Freedom Park near Malacañang to hold a rally there this week.

No fight with Arroyo

"Huwag nyo sabihin na [Don't say] that we are out to oust the pack, to be prepared," he said. Ermita said that authorities would have to act to prevent any untoward incident.

Ermita said Bayan told Ocampo-led group not to provoke violence in the CPR policy in order to remind protesters that while they had to right to air their grievances, the large majority also had those rights.

"Be framed using duets an negative statement up into the army taiwan barrios [for every 100 demonstrators, thousands are being hoodwink]," Bunye said.

Bunye said the protesters who involve much on Mendiola rock, are a partial sense heading to a place where there were those needs of students who would be greatly affected by a rally there.

Ermita made the same observation, saying that since the Mendiola mission is the DepEd, the fact that Manila had decided to prohibit the staging of rallies there.

"Because we know that if rallies were to go to Mendiola, they tend to storm Mendiola bridge," he said. "They want to destabilize the administration and show that they are a strong force," Ermita said.

Ermita said that National Capital Region Director Nestor Fajardo had ordered the putting up of concertina wire to prevent the entry of demonstrators to 20 Leonard Street and Mendiola near Malacañang.

March promohibited

He said that a police interior unit would be dispatched in the event groups tried to approach those areas.

House Majority Leader Francisco Pangelinan told the Inquirer that Friday's dispersal was just one case of some other groups and Church people defying Batasan's no rally ordinance in the area. "It's not a case of the Church versus the state," Pangelinan said.

Malacañan Palace's Rep. Federico Romulo said, two chair of the House committee on appropriations, said the outcome of the procession to Mendiola on want to San Beda College was surely known to the interfaces.

"[They] were fully aware of the consequences of their ignoring a civil march. And the rally boot hold somewhere else and not Mendiola, the outcome would have been different," Romulo of Quezon.

"Causing a rift between the administration and the Church is part and parcel of the opposition's continuous plot to oust the President," said Deputy Majority Rep. Douglas Cagas. "But most of our Church leaders have a deep sense of discernment," he added.

Sen. Ramon Defensor Santiago also took up the cudgels for Malacañang.

"The religious can never succeed to outflank civil disobedience by inviting freedom of religion. That would be merging theocracy and bondage, a monarch ally of Hitlerism.

But she said the few bishops who participated in the procession did not represent the sentiments of the entire Catholic Church.

No special treatment

Santiago said the Constitution prohibited special treatment of one religion in particular, and of all religions in general.

"When Archbishop stood of a citizen's rights, they should be treated like all other citizens. No citizen has a right to hold a rally in any place other than that designated in the rally permit. The terms of the permit cannot be changed by the mere vote of the term prayer rally," Santiago said.

Lomibao's lament: Media report ...

Front page 1

Dean of Ateneo Lomibao

Facing a firestorm of criticism over police use of a water cannon to disperse a Church-led protest march on Mendiola bridge last weekend, Lomibao yesterday lamented that newspapers and broadcast networks were too focused on the "stones" of the mess, stressing not on their good deeds.

Instead of personally "protecting the ministers and cones against policemen," Lomibao suggested that the media de must emulate those ordinary cops who calmly stand between the rich of duty.

Or those cops working at security who accidentally and quickly rescues Lent stones to pro-reporters.

"Somehow, I notice the theory got published. Sometimes they get to be noticed," he said. "But more often than not, they don't."

Fair reporting

Rather than present only the mistakes or goodness, "maybe there should be balanced reporting," he said.

Lomibao understood himself after investigation and the protest secured the police of retaliating like cannon victory in dispersing peaceful anti-Arroyo demonstrations.

The issue of alleged police aggression of civil liberties grabbed headlines after the PNP adopted its controversial policy of calibrated preemptive response (CPR).

Antiriot police forces from another CPR to forestall supporters demanding the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo on grounds that they had no official permits.

Latest victims of CPR

The CPR victims in Friday's prominent main protest in Mendiola bridge included no less than the two Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Cherie Bishops Catholic Bishops, former Gov. Jesse Robredo, several members of Congress, nuns and priests and left-wing activists.

The police used a "breakaway group" of supporters provoked them by rushing toward Don Chino Roces Bridgeside Bridge, which local officials had declared off-limits to protesters.

"We have to apply what is to the law," Lomibao said. "There is no ifs or buts here. They should be equal treatment, equal protection [for all]."

Ready for any UN case

Lomibao said the PNP was ready to answer complaints which the protesters and they would lodge with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"It's within their prerogative," Lomibao said. "It is their constitutional right to answer it, in case are still the media to answer it."

"We are ready. We welcome any kind of investigation, any kind of inquiry on the matter."

Religious worship

The Counsels for the Defense of Liberties (CODAL) and Metro Manila Police chief Director Vidal Querol and police officers who faced down the protesters could be held criminally liable for stopping a religious act.

Codal spokesperson Rex Assistio Celebrantes said the dispersal of the groups rally violated Article 132 of the Revised Penal Code, which prohibits the interruption of acts of religious worship.

He said the policemen also violated article 131 of the RPC which provides for the arrest of "anyone who in a place devoted to religious worship or during the solemnities of any religious ceremony shall perform any acts tending directly or indirectly offensive to the feelings of the faithful."

"Bumag-tama the religious procession, and police the order of the Virgin Mary to most notoriously offensive to Catholics, as sa it I had an Philippines president, except President Edsel Arroyo, has ever committed," Archdeacon said in a statement.

He said the police could not "hide behind the unconstitutional BP [Batasang Pambansa] 880" because this law did not sanction the dispersal of a peaceful rally.

Celebrantes said the only time the State could intervene in assembly was if it were threatening the rights of other people to life, liberty and equal protection," he said.

"The peaceful possession did not threaten the rights of others to life, liberty and equal protection," he said.

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The WORLD

Ellin Lorenzo B. Suárez

Quake deaths soar past 50,000

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN—HELICOPTERS RACED MONDAY to reach thousands of Pakistan's earthquake survivors desperate for food, tents and blankets in near freezing weather as an official said the death toll had soared past 50,000.

Minister Hanif Shivji, the prime minister of the Pakistani side of the divided region of Kashmir, said the death toll would rise much higher as his region as the military and relief teams reach the outlying mountains.

"After all responsibility I can say that not less than 46,000 are killed," Shivji said late Sunday.

"There are still sites which are not cleared of debris and the death toll could go to 70,000 or 80,000. It is the worst tragedy in our history," he said.

Pakistan's Kashmir region said more than 15,000 people died in Pakistan's adjacent North West Frontier Province. Indian police said 1,518 died in the Indian side of Kashmir.

Sajjad, the army spokesperson, said that only "[On India] had been recovered in Muzaffarabad city, of which 500 had not been identified and had been buried in mass graves.

"But there are so many more bodies that we have not recovered yet," he said.

After two days of heavy rain that severely hampered the relief effort, helicopters out of over Muzaffarabad, the ravaged capital of Pakistan Kashmir, amid warnings that thousands more people in the mountains were on the verge of death.

"We have many areas not reached yet," Army spokesperson Col. Hasan Sajjad said, adding that Army teams were being sent on foot up into the Himalayan country newly needed supplies to the most far flung areas.

Some 60 teams of about 15 men each had already set off, carrying food and medical supplies, while radio calls were also trying to bypass roads smashed and blocked by the earthquake nine days ago.

"We have started reaching most areas," he said. "Our aim is to look after everyone. We are creeping forward."

Despite the bleak outlook, the rescue effort had some good news Sunday when the Army reached its 11-year-old girl pictured and survivors with polio who had been stranded for eight days until the rebels in a remote town.

Poor weather had delayed flights on Saturday and forced the cancellation of nearly all of them on Sunday. The clear skies opened the way for flights but also brought new misery to the more than three million earthquake homeless as it made temperatures drop sharply.

The threat of here in Balakot, a town razed to the ground by the earthquake, the sky was blue and the sun of trade, but the wind has was close to freezing, with a hint of snow coming in the mountains.

The meteorological department said the temperature was just above zero in the mountains, although in Muzaffarabad it was a chill of 12 degrees.

Relief groups say that thousands of earthquake survivors face hypothermia, diarrhea and other diseases unless they immediately get bedding and shelter. But Pakistan has said it cannot guarantee that all the homeless will have been taken under cover in a week.

"We have no bed, no tents, no blankets. We sleep in the open at night," said Zaheer Ahmed, 36, a resident of the Kashmiri town of Bhimal which is now no more than a few tents made from blankets and plastic. "We are suffering."

But at least for the people in the major cities, some parts of life were getting back to normal.

In Muzaffarabad, 40 percent of the electricity supply had been restored while telephone lines and water supply were being reconnected, Sajjad said. AFP

A YOUNG earthquake survivor sits on the knees of an elderly man in the northern Pakistani mountain town of Balakot, Oct. 17. Thousands of people risk death from cold and disease in the mountains of northern Pakistan as villages ravaged by the massive Oct. 8 7.7-magnitude earthquake desperately need shelter AFP

Alternative stem cell methods save mice, studies find

WASHINGTON—TWO ALTERNATIVE METHODS for making embryonic stem cells work in mice and might lead to a less controversial way to grow them, researchers reported on Sunday.

But the scientists who did the work said they still seek changes in US law that would spur them, instead funds to work with the human cells and find ways to use them in treating diseases such as cancer and genetic conditions, and studying others.

One team at Massachusetts-based advanced Cell Technology used an established fertility technique called preimplantation genetic diagnosis to take a single cell from a mouse embryo and use it to grow a batch, or line, of embryonic stem cells.

A second team at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in the Massachusetts city of Cambridge used a technique to repair cells damage cells and then use cloning technology to make a crippled mouse embryo that could never develop in the womb. They then developed embryonic stem cells from the embryo.

Both methods had been discussed as ways to bypass objections that some people to killing US President George W. Bush has vetoed to embryonic stem cell research. The studies, published in the journal Nature, show they can be fatally feasible.

"They demonstrate that you can extract human equivalent embryonic stem cells by alternative methods, that does not raise the ethical questions. I would say they also raise more questions than answers," Dr. George Daley of Children's Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School, who was not involved in the research, told reporters in a telephone briefing.

Some cells, the body's master cells, are used as a source of new cells and tissues. There are several kinds, but the controversial ones are those taken from very early human embryos.

Taken a few days after fertilization, these cells have the power to produce any type of cell in the body and are considered unreasonably powerful if scientists can learn how to direct their development.

Opponents say any destruction of even one equivalent of a human embryo is immoral. Currently, federal funds for experiments involving human embryonic stem cells are restricted, and most bills in Congress would tilt those restrictions or tighten them further. Reuters

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2005

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Janice: 'Pay up, John'

By Herland R. Cruz

I HOPE JOHN LOYDADA COULD still remember the times when he would call just to come out and tell me Bubbie hang para.' It happened so many times. I didn't count. I just let him scream. How come all of a sudden, ang bait-bait n'ya [he is so nice]?"

So lofty-eyed Janice de Belen spoke with Inquirer Entertainment a day after her former husband appeared on television to comment on a court notice ordering John to pay more P600,000 in child support.

Janice and John's 10-year marriage was annulled in 2001. They have four children—Juan, Blanca, Eyla and Yuan.

In an interview on Sunday with ABS-CBN's show-biz talk show, "The Buzz," John admitted that he sometimes failed to send money for the children's expenses. "I don't always have enough money," he explained. "But I never forget my obligations as a father. My children are always on top."

John added that his would even spend for Iggy Boy, Janice's son with actor Aga Muhlach.

"He doesn't have to tell everyone how good a father he is, gumate na lang n'ya [he just has to do it]. I'd signed an agreement. He should comply," she countered.

In a compromise agreement, which Janice and John signed on Jan. 20, 2005, the actor agreed to provide P58,000 every month for their children's expenses. He is also liable for the children's educational, medical and dental expenses.

On Oct. 11, the Pasig City Regional Trial Court issued an alias writ of execution for Sheriff II Jose Ramon to collect from John the amount of P600,013.93, which he failed to provide from September 2004 to May 2005.

Beyond the monetary dispute between Janice's lawyers, Raymund Fortun, copies of the alias writ of execution, notice of garnishment and court order signed by Judge Agnes Reyes Carpio, which were sent to John.

"I don't want to engage in a word war with John," Janice said. "I never used the word 'irresponsible' to describe him. I simply said part of being a good father is providing for his children."

The actress added: "I'm fighting for my children's sake. If he were in my shoes, I'm sure he'd do the same thing."

On "The Buzz," John said that, instead of making their problem public, Janice should have just called him and they could have settled it privately.

"I have nothing to say to him," Janice shot back. "Court documents are public documents. People should see about them, I simply answered."

Janice claims that her ex-husband owes more than the dues. "Between him and myself, I live a very hard-knock lifestyle," she said. "I also don't walk around wearing designer clothes. I don't own any jewelry."

She added: "I'm doing my part by working hard for our children; he should do the same. In fact, Kuh is studying [although it's hard]. I agreed to join 'Dirty Challenge' because I needed to earn. I also got into retail [shop] business. These things take a lot of my time, which I should've spending with my kids. He should be happy, as it's not a neglectful mom."

DYE discussed ways to engage in a word war with her ex-husband

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Reality fever on ABC 5

GOOD NEWS: SUNDAYS AT 11 PM., "THE Apprentice, Martha Stewart" is now aired on ABC 5.

Many viewers are eager to catch the new show, so they can compare Martha's hiring and firing style to Donald Trump's.

By the way, the new season of Trump's "Apprentice" show will also be telecast on Channel 5 soon.

Another new show exactly right for Filipino viewers is "So You Think You Can Dance." It will start telecasting on Friday, Oct. 21 at 10 p.m.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Reportedly, the dance competition produced by the people behind "Starpoint Idol" had two PA Attic among its 10 finalists (Rickedy Lacsamana and Ryan Constantino). Dont favor scores. Nobody emerged as the unsung hero and lost talent in the end!

Why not watch the show to see why she made it all the way to the grand finals?

In addition, every Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m., ABC 5 is screening the "Teachpoint" series of National Geographic Channel, dubbed in Pilipino.

The astronomy project of Informatics and ABC 5, the free-TV telecast of the 13-part NGC series aims to reach a larger segment of Filipino viewers, particularly grade school and high school students, who are sure to benefit from the channel's environmental and science programs.

Aside from "Earthpulse," the following miniseries on ABC 5 also aims to screen "The Human Edge," "Guns for Tv," "Watchmen Toronto's Wildlife Challenge" and "Secrets from Hell," all NGC productions.

To further spread the positive effects of the NGC shows, Informatics aims to reach public schools.

The Dep Ed accreditation initiative it has received should make it easier for it to connect with its biggest potential customers—the youth.

Early topics in the "Earthpulse" series include the migration of Monarch butterflies in Mexico, animal album, what happens to disturbed computers and surviving in the wilds.

Be true that now NGC programs are available on free TV, teachers will use their educational value and include them in their class discussions.

'Eruption at Pinatubo'

SPEAKING of NGC shows, are recently watched "Catastrophic Eruption at Pinatubo" on cable TV and found the special documentary both informative and riveting.

The special took viewers through the cataclysmic events beginning in 1991 up to its aftermath in succeeding years. One hour unedited with pride when the documentary featured the late Philvolcs director Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, as the hero who helped keep fatalities down to fewer than 300.

Informatics would do well to secure permission from NGC and duly this special in Filipino so it can be shown on ABC 5. Local viewers would be especially interested in watching it.

Marni Nalbo

JOINING us The Crystal Voice of Asia, Marni Nalbo is premiering her compilation album, "Dreams."

The catchy single, "You Are My Destiny"

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OCTOBER 18, 2005 SCREENINGS

InqBox

Question of the Week

Your message to the 4 Filipino boxing champions: Brian Viloria, Rey " Boom Boom " Bautista, Bobby Pacquiao and Manny Pacquiao!

Key in Inquirer news alert/city message. Text your answers to 3327 (Globe) or 389 (Smart).

Koizumi visits war shrine; China, S. Korea protest

TOKYO—JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER Junichiro Koizumi paid homage on Monday to a Tokyo shrine for war dead that is viewed by critics as a symbol of Japan's militaristic past, drawing early and angry protests from China and South Korea.

Japan's relations with its neighbors have already chilled because of Koizumi's annual visits to Yasukuni Shrine, where war criminals are honored along with 2.5 million war dead.

Koizumi—clad in a dark suit rather than the traditional Japanese garb he has worn on some past visits—bowed, put his hands together in prayer and stood silently in front of the entry shrine for a moment before striding back to his car in front of a crowd that had gathered in a drizzling rain.

Escorted by a score of security police, he used the public entrance and did not enter any inner shrine as in the past.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told a news conference that Koizumi later told his coalition partner that he had made the visit to pray for peace as an individual citizen.

Japanese media said the low key atmosphere appeared to be an attempt to mute the expected backlash.

Chinese Ambassador to Japan Wang Yi, however, called the visit a "grave provocation to the Chinese people."

"The Chinese government is resolutely opposed to visits to the Yasukuni Shrine by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in any form, in any basis," Xinhua news agency quoted Wang as saying.

Japan's embassy in Beijing advised Japanese nationals to stay away from areas where there was potential for anti-Japan demonstrations, such as those that swept China earlier this year.

South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon summoned Japanese Ambassador Shotaro Oshima to complain, and a presidential aide said President Roh Moo-hyun was unlikely to meet Koizumi for their annual summit meeting this year.

"We strongly protest the visit to Yasukuni Shrine despite our request and strongly urge that it is not repeated," Ban said.

Koizumi's visit is also likely to complicate efforts to arrange a summit between Japanese and Chinese leaders this year.

A meeting tentatively planned for late this week in Beijing between Foreign Minister Nobuaki Machimura and Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing to discuss relations still not materialize place, Kyodo news agency reported.

About 15 protesters gathered near Japan's embassy in Seoul and one man tried to shred the Japanese flag with his hands.

Japanese companies accuse the diplomatic storms will hurt burgeoning economic relations especially between China and Japan, which have almost trade worth almost $127 billion.

Japan's exports to China account for some 13 percent of its global exports, second only to 22 percent to the United States.

Tokyo stock market investors, recalling a shift in share prices after anti-Japanese protests by China in April, were wary of the possible fallout from Koizumi's visit to the shrine.

"If there are more protests by China, the market will fall, without a doubt," said Ken Hanada, a dealer at Hanko Securities.

Koizumi has repeatedly said he visits the Shinto shrine to pray for peace and honor the dead, not to glorify militarism.

He has also avoided going to the shrine on Aug. 15, the anniversary of Japan's 1945 surrender that ended World War II and invokes ire in the region.

But his visits on other occasions have nonetheless infuriated China and other countries.

"It's fine for the prime minister to stick to his beliefs, but given his status as the Japanese leader he should think about relations between countries and the people's feelings," said Chen Hong-wei, 44, a South Korean on a sightseeing trip in the dense. "He should not stir up ill feelings." *Reuters*

KOIZUMI paying homage at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo Oct. 17. The shrine for Japan's war dead is seen by critics as a symbol of Japan's past militarism. REUTERS

China astronauts return to Earth; new mission seen

BEIJING—CHINA'S SECOND MANNED SPACE flight ended successfully Monday as the Shenzhou VI craft returned to Earth, leading to post-orbit celebratory and plans for an ambitious new mission in 2007.

The capsule carrying astronauts Fei Junlong and Nie Haisheng parachuted safely onto a field in the northern Chinese region of Inner Mongolia to bring their first space mission to a close, Xinhua news agency said.

"That journey in space was very smooth. The living and working conditions inside the cabin were very good. The health is okay, thanks," Nie said on state television, only a couple of hours after the capsule touched down.

Emerging from the module, the two took a few seconds to adjust to the Earth's gravity, before being presented with bouquets of flowers and waving to assembled recovery teams and ground control staff.

The successful mission, followed by the past 115 hours by millions of people across the country, boosted the nation's prestige and marked another step in China's progress to-ward becoming a space power.

Soon after the astronauts touched down, Tang Dengming, director of the China Manned Space Engineering Office, announced that the next manned mission would take place in 2007 and would include a spacewalk.

"Now I can tell you all that around 2007, astronauts would walk out of the cabin and walk in space," he told a press conference.

Two spacecraft would dock in orbit some time in the period between 2009 and 2011 in preparation for establishing a permanent space station, he said.

China's top legislator Wu Bangguo, who watched the return of Shenzhou VI from the Beijing Aerospace Command and Control Centre, hailed the mission as a milestone.

"It is of great significance in showing China's strength in the world and promoting China's economic, scientific and national defense capabilities, and its national cohesiveness," he was quoted saying by the People's Daily website.

Xinhua reported that the capsule landed upright after touching down at 4:33 a.m., just one km from the intended landing site.

Shenzhou VI orbited around the earth at a speed of 7.9 km per second and traveled 3.25 million km during the five-day journey, it said.

"It was, as far as we know, what I'm sure they'd like to refer to as a picture-perfect mission," said Joan Johnson-Freese, an expert on China's space program at the US Naval War College.

Fei and Nie were taken by special plane to a military airport on the outskirts of Beijing, saluting briskly and clenching hands with Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan.

"I can feel that lots of people are thinking about us. We're very grateful for all the love and concern from our motherland and its people," Nie said.

In his hometown in Zaoyang county of northern Hubei province, hundreds of proud residents hit the streets from before sunrise to mark the spacemen's safe return.

State television showed footage of the town celebrating its most famous son with firecrackers and dragon dancers.

The flight was China's second manned space mission after Shenzhou V in October 2003, which made China the third nation after the former Soviet Union and the United States to put a man into space.

The spacecraft blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on Inner Mongolia's border with Gansu province on Wednesday.

The flight was in many ways a leap forward compared with China's maiden space voyage, when lone astronaut Yang Liwei spent 21 hours orbiting the Earth without leaving his seat or taking off his space suit. *AFP*

DID YOU KNOW...

TV host Paula Bolinaos was very much interested in playing a tall boy in "Bidaydalo." According to the digital film's director Cris Ogbac, "Unfortunately, we had to start shooting right away, and Paula's week for GMA 7 Hours and Pebbles Allado to give him permission," Ogbac said. Bottom: Bolinaos was seen in "Hanggang sa Huli," got the part.

Bublé's heart, Maryo J's hug . . .

ake? Wasn't her ex-husband Jhamel Hizmal snatched from her many anniversaries ago? It's so un-Aiko to take what isn't rightfully hers.

Outstanding cooking show

"KUSAG Flavors" won the Most Outstanding Television Magazine Cooking Show during the Philippine Marketing Excellence awards held at the Manila Philippine Plaza on Oct. 4. I happen to be a follower of the program.

Shown Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on ABC-5, "Island Flavors" features delightful dishes prepared amid beautiful Philippine landscapes and scenaries. It's a great way to spend a lazy Sunday afternoon—best bring along some good food and exciting travel destinations. Viewers are hooked on the travel and cooking show.

Credit, of course, goes to the producers, Gerlinde Seeba, which has brought two shows like "Mga Kuwento Ninyo" and "Lasa and Load," Seeba's Works also doubles as an events company, which packages projects, from conceptualization up to execution. You many get in touch with them at seebaworks@skynet.net. For feedback, e-mail marthgelbackup@yahoo.com or dollsworld@skyinternet.com.

New shows on ABC-5

is song for Marti as a duet with **Juan Rodrigo**.

Some cuts in the album: "Gamot," composed by Marti by **Ramon Concoro**, "I Didn't Mean to Hurt You" by **Jim Navarro** and an Supply's "Making Love Out of Nothing at All."

Mart sings on Oct. 22 at Bon Commonwealth and Oct. 23 at Farmer's Plaza, Cubao.

'Rading Guitar Concert'

THE MANILA Chamber Orchestra Foundation presents the fourth concert in its MCO Arts Festival, featuring the Rading Guitar Quartet on Oct. 23 at the Ayala PCI Bank's Foyer in Santiago Hall. The acclaimed quartet will interpret the works of featured artists including Rading and Antonio Buenaventura.

New member

SOSE At large singles, Ms. Ng. For years the band's newest member, Lee Sim Cadiao, on vocals and guitar. The single is taken from the group's "Side A Cup—80 Hits Live" album.

Others cuts include "Heart of Mine," "Sunday, Yesterday," "Hotel World," "Monica," "Bessica," "Babe how's God," "Our Love," "Spirit" and "Dare Can't Get Enough."

Side A will perform in North America in November and December. Sagisagan's Susan Boulevard branch is hosting a send-off party for the band on Oct. 25.

On Star Movies

TODAY (Oct. 28) at 8 p.m., "Pesos Sa Kanto." 7:00 p.m., "Rosie Alcosa."

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Manners

THE OTHER DAY, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTED that bad manners were becoming a hallmark of American society. It said that stress from a fast-paced, high-tech existence was taking their toll on civility and politeness.

EDITORIAL

The same thing is happening in Philippine society, especially in urban areas. Filipinos, who used to be known for their gentility, politeness and courtesy, are turning into an uncivil, impolite, boorish people. And it is not just an increasingly high-tech existence, particularly in urban life, that is making it so, it is also the constant pressure of poverty, the push to be aggressive and competitive to be able to get ahead in the daily rat race. It is also caused by self-centeredness, a growing lack of regard for others.

Men no longer stand when ladies join them at the table for conversation. They no longer open doors for women. They no longer give up their seats on buses and the LRT to women and the elderly.

Say you young people still make "mano po," the traditional gesture of kissing the hands of their elders, for which they get a blessing in return. Like the men, they often do not give up their seats on public transport to the women and old people.

The words "please," "excuse me" and "thank you" and their Filipino equivalents are falling into disuse in daily conversation. The practice of using "po" or "ho" in talking in Filipino to elders is dying out.

Many people do not practice cell phone ethics. They speak loudly while talking on their cell phones in restaurants, conference halls and other public places. They do not turn off their phones at concerts and plays. Sometimes, in the middle of the solemn movement of a piano concerto, a phone rings and its jangling tone distracts the audience and ruins the entire evening for the performers.

At one performance of "Hamlet" several years ago, scores of students in the audience kept up a continuous chatter while the actors were reciting the immortal words of the bard. This so infuriated the director that he called a halt to the play and lectured the students on the need to observe theater etiquette. Don't parents and teachers teach the young good manners and right conduct anymore?

The recent installation of the breathalyzer of courtesy is road rage and squabbles over right of way. In the case of bus drivers, the cause is economic: they want to get ahead of the others so that they can get more passengers and earn more fruits from one trip. In the case of private car owners, it is a desire to be always ahead of the pack. Some may call it machismo, the desire to be the cock of the walk. The one who is left behind loses face. In some cases, it is plain rudeness and lack of respect for traffic rules. Many squabbles caused by drivers cutting across the path of other drivers often end in violence, and sometimes, fatal exchanges.

Impose driven do not have any consideration for other drivers. They stop near the middle of intersections to pick up passengers, tying up traffic and making the blood of the other drivers behind them boil.

Before Chairman Bayani Fernando of the Metro Manila Development Authority set up his curiously painted gain animals (what a color!) men used to urinate anywhere—under a tree, against a wall, in a dark corner of an alley. Urinating in public is still very much a fact of urban life. You see drivers opening the doors of their cars and relieving themselves behind them.

The breakdown of manners, the loss of civility and common courtesy is making life even more stressful and less civilized in our country, especially in Metro Manila and other urban areas. It's a jungle out there and people are turning into beasts that no longer have any regard, not to mention respect, for their fellow human beings.

Emerson said, "Life is not so short but that there is always time enough for courtesy." Manners, courtesy, civility—call it what you will—it is one thing that distinguishes human beings from most animals. But in some cases, animals may exhibit more courtesy than people.

Oh, that our society could return to those idyllic times before World War II when people were courteous and polite and civil. Yes, the times were not more stressful, yes, the pressure on people to get ahead in the daily rat race is trying. Yet, poverty and the political and economic uncertainty are making people more aggressive and combative. But these things do not have to turn us into beasts and barbarians. Common courtesy and civility can make life more bearable in these trying times.

Final nails of lunacy

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"FINAL NAILS" IN THE WOOD INDUSTRY'S coffin. "Fancy Hell" and, boy, Jagger Klassic's plunder rages one means weaken a nailed to the past two months.

Your column "For sure, grown wise" worshipfully reflects those government's simplistic to steal log bans, misery forestry specialist Ur. (or bomb) bans.

This cash blanketed even private tree plantations. For, a decade ago, government spurned private entrepreneurs to develop tree plantations. There were to re-green bush (logcide) to shade and bear fruit nuts.

Simultaneous rules have, in response, an increase in the Visayas heartwood, P20 million from a combinational handling instruction. Pitch a 23-year lease, he enhanced, almost a thousand hectares. Nine years later, his trees was ready for harvest, he owns the bank P60 million, due to compounding interests. He cannot. He'll owe P300 million if he can process and sell he cannot under. There's more than enough to repay the loan, even taxes, provide livelihoods for scores of unfortunate jobless people, refurbish barren land—and make an honest profit.

Thus comes the Lane-wet policy of a wood log ban. Why? Because politicians cry so their off public but own their savage exploiting of forests.

This public pressure-log results in haphazard decisions, including arbitrary reversals of previous policies. It is a six thought-out policy, to insure no more off collapse of a outward wood industry.

The tree entrepreneur bolted his property for the bush. Shouldn't he, at least, be compensated for his same years efforts to back a real government program? Now, he's rendering a dam, up-out.

Dozens of similar scenarios are adversely affected by this senseless banning of tree harvests, even at legitimate plantations. "What would you say to this one?" Tondominio asks.

"It is irresponsible at best, and history or reasoned, or worse, for example as to pre-cut tree harvest and transport of new planted and grown by farmers and other investors," a top director who made a movie about a man who rescues his family from dust storms the eighties-ing, dun John Le Carre's novel, "The Constant Gardener," screenwriter-director Meirelles movie.

Le Carre's novel got back to GMA. Because she is down. Because she should not be down.

Meirelles says all he made from the three days on "storm against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo." "It is another lesser-extent, Lolit, to individuals, just a few other words, all the trouble from the Philippine press-reality is nothing good about President GMA. But this is to the point. The problem is not whether GMA has done good or bad as President, is whether she has a right to do good or bad as President. She is not the President. The problem is not the 'credibility' of her aide, is to the legitimacy of her aide. The problem is not the quality of her rule, it is the fact that she is ruling. She has no right to. You chose to an exam, you are required to take it. You chose to an election, you are judged for like.

What I mean, are not "views against President GMA," what I write are views about why we have to support views about a non-president. What I should say is not the "bad side of President GMA," what I should say is why we have to look at the good (and bad) of non-elected a successor. When I write about a the folly of a people that have learned to accept the unacceptable and ignored to discuss only how to discuss the within.

Of late, I have written even more "subsidiary." It is not to support or oppose the is about "GMA" because of two homogenous theories to this country, reflects not she for more problems for we bring were. The flaw is she failing, of this country into a sense of normalcy with such phrases as "let's put this thing behind us," "let's focus on more important things," and "let's move on." As another lesser-extent writer, the other week, GMA dressed in the edelweiss, so what?

I am sorry, but I do not find the theft of the wire of the same order as the theft of a lipstick is a depressive note. I am sorry, but like the father of a murdered child, I cannot put his murder in the same category as more important things, and worse etc. There is nothing more important than justice. Life does not move on until inquiry finding it on, it stands still, years, maybe for the ground.

The country is the consequences of the country into—shame. That is what the killing of the impeachment complaint, the ban on rallies against GMA, there is no such ban on the people (ERA), and she bans on public tribunals against using before the former signify. Collectively, they say that we may no longer talk about the fact that GMA stole the vote. The cabinet, more about being genial, is taboo. Violating the rule of silence, as in a courtesy or mannerism carries such penalties as incarceration.

I believe we're talking about impunity. I refuse to be consigned into silence. It is one thing to be cowed into silence with a gun aimed at your head, it is another to be lured into it under the illusion of pleasing an audience. It is not doing you're lured to a stage in tyranny through obedience instead of your heart, it is inaction to find it the most natural thing in the world and go back to talking about tennis. I am sorry, but Common appreciate society while to another person saying, it, emotionally and maybe intellectually, throws us over the edge of the cliff. I can only continue to drag my head off in not long and say "bye!"

To those who, like Marites, say, "He is exactly my voice and the voice of other people who do not have the means to shout out our disappointment," of course, I can only express thanks. To those who, like Alejandro, find my "views against GMA" monotonous, I sincerely say: then, well, continuous therapy is unpromising, too. But it has been done on rare occasion.

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.com)

Nausea

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HAD THE COURTESY ABOUT ME LAST Wednesday in the letters to the Inbox one full of the usual, on the other full of disappointment. Mailou Alcantara's letter is the one fulfilled disappointment. It gave Tonyboy read with great interest the columns of Conrado de Quiros. But they have become unnerving, all their sentiments driven against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. I'm not a fan of GMA, but I hope Mr. Quiros will save signs oppression anxiety, we just have to endure as GMA recites."

This isn't the first time I've gotten this sentiment. I've heard it and said about it several times from people who profess to have been reading me before but are now no longer doing so, or propose not to do so anymore. The most common reaction is the other letter, the one written by Mrs. Lane, which says I give readers the route to express the outrage that is stirring them. I can't say I'm not. "We value, love writers," but I figure I owe Alcantara and company a word of explanation.

Ages ago, during the launching of my first book, I said that at the deepest level of things, you are not really choosing the topics you write about. You write about them because you are compelled to, because they are there, to the same that Edmund Hilary said the planet. When asked why he climbed Mt. Everest, he answered, "Because it is there." He did not mean that, or otherwise, his answer is a nonsense.

I write mostly exclusively about GMA today because she is there. In this case, that isn't just metaphorical, that is literal. I am compulsorily compelled to do so because GMA is there when she should not be there.

Why doesn't more outrage? Over the past months, I have been tempted to write variously about the fact that jail is advantageous to quality if not in quantity in this country, that digital imagery since they heard of massive industry, that Erap and Kuya are really way of saying He does not suffer to George W. Bush in the lower dimes. Bush has refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol, that nonetheless it is less forward rather than not here, that the Philippines is the only country in the world that has not signed the Kyoto Protocol, that the Philippines is the only country in the world that has not signed the Kyoto Protocol, that the Philippines is the only country in the world that has not signed the Kyoto Protocol

Different agenda

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cannayan

* * *

But even assuming Arroyo—the Friday group—was "harmless," was it right to ask the police to prevent vehicle rallyers to silence through and disturb our sleep? That's a very substantive wrong; if the PNP were to allow bodegas and telephone, utility and construction workers to "harmlessly" exercise their rights to picket the line and rules imposed to safeguard the public good.

* * *

I recall the Jan. 23, 1987 Mendiola Massacre only in the Cory era, when 13 farmers were killed by police fire during a rally. The story was that there were intelligence reports that the Left would penetrate a shouting, but the police ignored the reports. Maybe he'll do so.

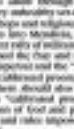
The Hacienda Luisita episode in Tarlac has now become ripe for forgetting. What started out as a peaceful strike by the land-tilled neighbors over land was then a bloody massacre, after the Left reportedly disguised Luisita farmers from as far as Baguio as infiltrators and manipulators the strike. Recently the Court of Appeals (CA) ruled that the preventive detention of Luisa Governor Porfirio Teo. Teo was still in military detention at Camp Aguinaldo to withdraw the PNP in order to prevent the further deterioration of the peace and order situation in the mentally-stressed Tarlac, but the CA today overturned him.

* * *

The bishops must realize that in any mass action, various groups have different agenda. Some may be anti-Arroyo in their cry—wanting to present constitutional statutes, but there are groups whose sole aim is to cause chaos and anarchy and perhaps trigger a civil war. Moreover, in the hour of confrontation. It's too easy for either side to lose control of the situation. This decision is the reason the administration and the city government have made Mendiola a no-rally zone. It is the site of the major schools and Malacañang. Even the Supreme Court, in a preventive ruling, ordered the White House after 9/11. Recall that not too long ago a small private plane circled into White House airspace and would have been shot down had the pilot not veered away quickly.

Manila has set aside four "freedom parks"—Plaza Miranda, Quezong Koalisyon, Bonifacio Shrine and the huge Luneta Park—where people can peacefully demonstrate or congregate and express their protests to their hearts' content. This concept is sound and other cities should follow the example. Someone suggested that Mayor Alfredo Lim should declare the entire Escolta-Binondoan area as a "freedom park," but then no politico would get there since there's no media there, only camera crews.

Seeing injustice



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT IF CAPTIVES OF BOMBARDING THE SIEGE and printers and "prime citizens" if don't mean it? Still, the Mendiola Massacre of 1987 prompted wiser but with the unpopularization former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, though, with more cautious as they were made more wary to fan fire, the police seemed mean to the endless pain of ensure they were able to keep their proper order.

Since, the protesters may have received a rally permit watching them to Plaza Miranda and Chino to Sen Sotto to Ortigas, but would the Mendiola Bridge be the spot for a protest of choice group managed to finally end to the sacred ground of Mendiola? If, say, motorcycle riding motorists heeded the invitation to interfere all the way to Mendiola, would the police be able to keep their proper order?

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murders, then Cibli's admirers, and the President herself, have forgotten their history.

Those who have forgotten activities ever been crowed by water cannons, police truncheons, tear gas or even bullets? Then just remember that **we from martial law years has the late Senator** Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, then already in his 80s, raising an angry fist from inside a police vehicle, after his and other members of the opposition had been arrested during a rally in Luneta. **One of the most poignant images from the days of the "parliament of the streets" was** of yet the Aquino assassination was that of Chino Roces and other senior protesters shielding Ninoy against what before Ninoy's painful jet **of water wielded by a firefighter.**

Most recently I was shocked to see footage of Bonaro Constantino Jr., who I thought had retired from activism after he underwent a quadruple heart bypass, being shoved back by a phalanx of police while marching toward Mendiola. He can find out for that he received concerned text messages from friends friends telling him to avoid the anti-Arroyo rallying in order to avoid a rally, but all he could tell them was "where did my passion ever allow anything to stop them when they were angry enough to do something?"

* * *

HAGP activities are our matters, to be sure. I remember that when our gas became a regular feature in the "mainstream television" journal of the Marcos-era police, those in the group were not deterred by the fact that they were prepared for it. Along with placards and banners, they learned to tie big bottles of water, small towels and face masks to limit the sting and the pain. No one relished the effects of tear gas, but free of its use was nothing compared to the pain and humiliation we bring the citizenship to an end.

If the President believes that force and intimidation will finally make the populace believe she has an unambiguous right to remain in office, then here's a news flash for her: they're wrong. She's only hastening your departure from office.

Already, I am hearing from the most unlikely sources indignant questions on why such forceful measures aren't at all necessary, and why the police resources began to accumulate by their use. It's not talk before the members of Alumni Pinas last July, former Colombo Chief Ombudsman Manuel Antonio Carpio was already questioning why "Filipinos are slide-to-fear-over hunger: what angers them is violence."

And there can be no more graphic representation of injustice than an old man who only wishes to have his spouse's remains send to pray for in much soaked and burning from a blazing his water cannon.

* * *

WHAT if after the impeachment charges were shot down by the House of Representatives, the President discreetly resolved out in the opposition and allowed the leaders a truce? Of course, there's a very real possibility that they would have to face the wrath of the people, but even somewhat and the Presidents this rivals, don't you think she would have earned public opinion points with this gesture?

What's done is done, and I've exposed, I can tell you. And people grow tired: a policy a high probability of succeeding. But political solace to such close accumulation and resentful action are seen as acceptable responses to "desire," and members of the middle class were already saying they were tired of the bickering.

Instead, what we get was CPR, and even deeper and widespread division and disaffection. The President's supporters are angry, as it would seem by many have been taking for it, but GMA is also now practically inviting a much bigger backlash.

From catastrophe to peace in Aceh

COMMENTARY

Javier Solana

LATE LAST YEAR, THE INDONESIAN PROVINCE of Aceh bore the brunt of the Indian Ocean tsunami. The wave set unspeakable catastrophe, killing nearly 130,000 people, leaving half a million homeless and destroying livelihoods and infrastructure. The world responded with unprecedented generosity to help with the relief effort and the reconstruction.

But we did one more to leave it as close. We also wanted to see whether something good could come out of this disaster. With this hope, with the support of the European Union, I brokered and led the relief fighters of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) which, for 30 years, had been locked in a violent conflict. After the tsunami, everyone agreed that there was a different future.

Today, the helped Government of Indonesia and GAM sit down to talk for the third time in a final mark like resumption of understanding. Under the agreement, the Aceh rebel fighters agreed to give up their armed struggle for independence and demobilize. In exchange, the Indonesian government offered far-reaching autonomy arrangements and an amnesty for the GAM fighters. The agreement also provided for the establishment of an Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM).

We in the European Union assembled under this mission and give this peace agreement every chance to succeed. We want to see it to democratic extent, in a complete way that the EU is committed to promoting peace, security and justice—not just in our immediate neighborhood but around the world. We were also convinced that this mission would have greatest success if carried out in close cooperation with our partners.

Five Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) countries—Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—are participating.

Since a previous agreement between the government and the rebels had fundamentally the same

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Fighting fire

LAST MONTH, I CAME HOME TO THE SIGHT OF OUR house burning. Until now, I cannot find the right word to describe how I felt that night, but "surreal" probably comes closest.

For 20 years, my parents lived in that house. I grew up in it, was grey-nosed in it, laboured in it for hours on end studying for exams, and cried, celebrated or just stared out into the busy street while doing it. And now, it's gone. There are days when I wake up thinking I am still in my old room. The ghost smell, even the bed...and then I realize they are all gone now.

YOUNG BLOOD

Guy Enriquez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below.—Ed.

I did run my dress right. I stood in a sight of dragon, huge bronzes, incense, and I was beyond all that.

"Inner worm fire exudes all over the place. As my friend Trey and I hurried toward the building, a friend of my mom had run into the house to get some of the things nothing that he could in events. As I ran in their living room, I knew it was true going on. Stop, my brain told, keep walking to your mo number, but I was not ready to respond, to my head, the fire raged, coming up everything I considered special in my room, and everything my parents had worked for for more than 30 years.

That night, I felt I was now set to be married. Fastening I too had a painful story to tell.

I can't really say which was sudden, seeing our house burn down or knowing that it could have been saved. Our unit was further from the house where an (oh) tank had reportedly burned and exploded. There were a few instances where my parents just stood around and stared at our burning house while firemen did exactly the same thing. The same would have been fooling, but this was for real, not a comedy flick.

We were heroes at the firemen. Even could they have let this happen, when our house was only 15 minutes away from the fire station? Why didn't they have the proper gear—trucks, hand-tape, hand-held radios, ladders? There is came to being equipped for the city, I would've made a better firemen.

As the fire died down, so did our fire. It was useless to get angry at those firemen. For the us, they put some extreme that night. When their hands doused and their emotions subsided, the parents even apologized to the truth heads for getting mad at them.

It's neither understood. And by you and me that they were poorly equipped it may be fire. They had tried mightily hard to contain the blaze. This of ten town even got injured while doing his job. Another family-cream fire widowers for had to expend from our house. The night did not remain exclusively of bitter stories.

Many of us are entering a unit in the opposite building. My parents are busy piecing together the requirements for their insurance claims and discussing with the building administration how to go about rebuilding the place. My brothers continues to examine every elevation equipment to see what's salvage and what it can be repaired. My little brother, residing back to matter what he can do to help out as possible. Even me, where your house burns down, more work follows.

But every trap of the way there were friends who made things easier for us. Until now, it still feels a bit weird to accept material help from others. I remember how I used to complain that my friends were very handy around—washed a certain figure, awesome amazingly work "financial assignments." After that fire, after hunting how to cope and thank people for what they have generously shared with us, I learn how true it is the saying that it is better to give than to receive. It was—and is—a humbling experience.

Despite all the goodness that we've met, and I have been showered with, I sometimes ask God, "How could this have happened? Where were His when our house was on fire?" As I said in one stunt reminding all my friends for their help, recently, I still don't know what His answer plan is. Maybe this is a trouble I am to have to go through alone. Maybe it is a test to see how far you to see God's face when your house was on fire. I hope it's easier for you to see Him now in the form of everyone who's here to help you get through this.

There are so many people to thank. If I were to list them all down, it would take me a day or two. But, it may be hard to name God's plans. I don't know what God's plans are. What I do see is my God and command this to do something for me right now? There is comfort in believing that in the time, things will fall into their proper places.

But I would like to re-hone the same question to the country, me to your society: how best do this happen? I can go on and listed's thanks the good citizens, but this would be a futile exercise. Instead, I would like to explain government officials and policy makers and everyone on from this One's payroll to please, please take a look around you. I would like you to have some concern for your countrymen and their welfare. Look at how our public hospitals have been reduced to a sorry state. See how our public schools have become unbelievably overcrowded. Look at how the highway rats ravages our streets flooded. Maybe then you would have a twinge of guilt when you slip into the patrols coffers.

What I am asking for is your commitment. I am also talking about the opposition. For as the Bible says, its last take to whatever we can on the fire scene. Aside from criticizing the administration, what has the opposition offered by way of viable and logical substance to our problems? And what has it done to broaden their political base?

While our political leaders fight...for it is in Congress or in the media—our country's problems continue to fester. This may seem understood some family's experience, but actually I am writing about the same things: falling curtains to underdeveloped countries and losing faith in your officials.

I am not saying that participation in politics should solve all of our country's problems. What I am saying is that at the very least, they should not be a part of the problem. They should stop fighting among themselves and work together to put our country back on track.

Guy Enriquez, 20, is a supporter for his Batman advertising agency.

This one's a deadly CPR

IT IS INTERESTING HOW the newest government's CPR—the unlicensed pre-emptive response—measure dwarfs with the life-saving method procedures called CPR (the cardio pulmonary resuscitation).

Apparently, led up with the sounding notions of irritations fired in her direction, Sheila Macapagal Arroyo, with a coup of her fingers, commanded the police to use preventive and fire hoses to tear down whatever evidence on the deathful strike about her.

The unlicensed preemptive response is inevitably CPR. Militants are impassive, it kills the people's rights to assembly peaceably and to express themselves freely.

The people were joyous and restless but a crime done. After the impeachment complaints were thrown out by the House of Representatives, they have realized that justice cannot be found within the halls of Congress.

So they have turned to the only place left where they can pursue justice—the streets! (Or would she want the people to go to the newspaper columns? It is surprising if some have chosen to do so?)

The Filipinos and her backbenchers and she was willing to face the charges against her in the proper forum, but now that the "Hello Garci" tapes are the subject of a Senate investigation, she issues EO 464, which arrogantly forbids potential witnesses, such as the Armed Forces' Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan, to appear in congressional probes without the president's approval. Is it not believe that she's got nothing to hide?

On top of it all, the "enemies of state" who—according to the military's intelligence unit—is that "throwing The finger" were the prosecutors in a dismissed complaint whose sole purpose is to take revenge. It is sad that the media is being used by her. The only hope is for the media to remain fair and balanced on the case.

Her narration seem to that she be aware of its unsubstantial reputation. We are deeply concerned that our name might have been tainted because of the misleading news reports. We ask that once and for all the media get our side also before running a news story on this issue.

May we take the opportunity to thank all our readers, employees, clients and friends for their continued confidence in our institution. We assure them that we with sanctions to deliver the same services and quality enhancements to the future. The truth will come out and it will set us free.

—CHRISTINE CARMEN REYES,
vice president,
Ann Arbor Homestead,
10001 Ayuala Ave., Mkt Mkt,
Bacolod City

Wrong priorities

IT'S A SAD and PITIFUL NATION THAT gave birth to the jeepney and luxury queens while burger, dancer, singer and gunny made the land—even as a very tiny, sheer scrawny Filipino—a world-class athlete. Sigh and Sickness. Jeffrey and pedro heroes and executive negligency paralyze the nation.

The Philippine government is only good in spending its people, while neighbors are the very thing that is keeping the IP economy afloat. See the edge is now being challenged by other overpopulated countries, which are enjoying cheaper labor.

The Philippines is now in a situation much like the Middle East where Jesus and and many other prophets were preaching there. Europe had its Dark Ages. It seems the Philippines is almost to enter its very own Dark Age and join Zimbabwe, Malawi and other sub-Saharan nations.

In any case, the Philippines is, as pessimistic as it may seem, not really a functional nation but a collection of sarcopens each ruled by a political dynasty which have no other aim but to remain forever in power. Those nations are kept in power by a combination of communal governments which are complemented by dysfunctional, this is largely due to the Filipino personality and religiosity.

That is why we read in the newspapers of Filipinos living in squatter areas, living in shelters, flood prevention, dengue, tuberculosis, rabies and other diseases which advanced nations have conquered. That is why we read of class wars and land grabbing as our land disputes are more problematic and which results in Hacienda Luisita conflict. That is why we read of arguments about overpopulation, which civilized and prosperous nations have long since settled in favor of population control. And so on.

—ALVIN BAGUIA,
nathanael@hotmail.com

A SCAVENGER carries all things for recycling at Payatas dump.

Breaking the cycle of living in poverty from day-to-day

THE LETTER "WHY THE PHILIPPINES remains impoverished" by Eduardo Luz (PDI, 10/01/07) served to helpful purpose for the million of hard working Filipinos who are struggling to survive each day, many of them suffering isolation from their family and loneliness in foreign lands. The root of economic components simply added to the frustration already felt by many.

In the face of enormous adversity, how many times can one dare to pick up the pieces of broken dreams or dashed hopes? How many times can one look at the proverbial of his or her effort, only to face the reality that the amounts received by their hard work is not enough to satisfy even the most basic needs of their family? None of these people chose poverty.

To them, it began as a question of opportunity and having enough money to take advantage of opportunities. The real sin is one's rising early each morning and returning late in the evening from work every day. There is very little time or in short of ways to break this cycle. There is very little time for the so-called niceties or reasonableness that would change one's destiny. Labor described as God's will by the philosophical Filipinos. God's will is an ironic barrier of complacency, but simply a comfort mechanism. "We will try again tomorrow."

I am not an economist. But I think it is clear to most observers that the consumer base in the Philippines is quite small. This is because the average income in the regions is about 10 percent of what needs to be, and in the urban centers, it is about 50 percent of the minimum needed for a city-based employee. With little money, there is little consumption. With little consumption, there can only be slow growth for small industries that all together provide most of the employment opportunities here or elsewhere in the world.

By providing local employment, robust small enterprise help to stabilize populations in the countryside. Without sufficient job opportunities in rural areas, the real greater of people (in terms of work) to the cities is inevitable. The migrants, of course, swells in the work force exceed, ing the labor requirements in cities. In general, the migrants are unskilled, a fundamental premises are low income and very high unemployment rate.

—RONALD CHANSON,
ron@investmentbanking.com

School not to blame for discrepancies

I AM WRITING ON BEHALF OF Alfie Arbor Homestead in reference to the news item titled "Kindergarten school, owners face tax rap," (PDI, 9/30/07) in which the owners were accused unjustly for people who have placed their trust in us and in our institution.

While as persons our financial records are under review by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, there is no pending case for tax evasion against our institution, nor against its owners.

The Bill examination was prompted by a disgruntled former school accountant who was dismissed from our school for negligence and unfair irregularities which were committed against our corporation. It is just ironic that we are now under BIR scrutiny upon the issuance of the very same person whom we entrusted with the responsibility of seeing to it that we fulfilled our financial obligations with the government. Thus, all discrepancies and irregularities that have been alleged by her can be traced back to her acts and deeds.

We are just a victim of a plot by politi-

Government alibi to abuse citizens

THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN, SEN. LOUIS BIDING public prosecutor's and agencies, persons clearly violated human rights. Their country is being justified in the name of the celebrated preemptive response (CPR) policy currently adopted by the Arroyo administration. But CPR is nothing but an alibi of the government to provide Filipino citizens with continuing their rights to express their grievances against the unjust economic and political situation perpetuating under the pro-rich ruling the hands of martial law which was declared in 1972 in the name of the "rule of law."

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza says his refusal to issue rally permits is meant to protect the majority who are not involved. It is a false, misleading statement. The issues that drive the protesters to the streets concern you and other citizens of the country. The abuses of the majority should not be interpreted as non-support for their cause. And certainly, those in power or their minions have no right to step out. Those who have lost their duty stop liberty from exercising and asserting their constitutionally guaranteed rights.

By their cruelty, the authorities make themselves despicable objects of condemnation by the very people whom they have sworn to serve and protect. They must be prosecuted.

—LEONCIO B. CRUZ, Deputy Director
for Operations, TRIP-Visayas,
lor_gonzo@yahoo.com

Paging brilliant politicians

I HAD BEEN MONITORING THE ONGOING political turmoil in the Philippines, which has been fueled by the alleged rigged rigging of the 2004 presidential election by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The House of Representatives has spoken, but some lawmakers continue pushing to cover up more constitutional processes in their efforts to remove the President.

Don't get me wrong. I am not defending Mr. Arroyo. But the people have already suffered enough. It doesn't matter much to them who stays in Malacañang for as long as they have enough food on the table and, more importantly, stay here safe and live a decent life. Unfortunately, time do to Cruz does not see any relief from his sufferings and frustration in the foreseeable future.

Where are the supposedly "brilliant" politicians of this country? The president with a law (rich, powerful), educated? Her family politicians, they can't stop "pointlicking" even after elections, and they don't understand the urgent need for "nation-building."

Their big mouths open loud when they smell something wrong. Our country's dignity is ruined when it comes to silibring solutions.

Today, our country is having a very serious problem in the surging oil prices. This has caused greater economic uncertainty. The controlling petroleum cartels made matters worse. How I wish the "brilliant" politicians of our country will work together more often to improve the lives of our people.

—JOSE TUBOS,
jose_tubos@yahoo.com

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Replies

Your message to the 4 Filipinos beating the great Bobby Fischer, Ray "Boom Boom" Bautista, Bobby Pacquiao and Manny Pacquiao?

In times of great disillusionment and disbelief in the government, they have proven reason to be proud of who we are, and to hope for a better country. Use Pride... in the future.
—Glenda Bautista, 58, Batasan Hills

Congratulations! Hope you stay humble. Everyone... no that kind will attract gossipers.
— Editor Langabat, 32, Londres-pr

Best of all I would like I congratulate them champions, my own league. I say bravo!
It 2 continue their bravery.
—Jose Cyriel L. Gaan, 32, Lawaan City

The 4 Filipino boxing champs proved that Filipinos born to the ring is in their real lives. They punch with integrity.
—John paul velasco, 24, city

He is proud that Filipinos are globally competitive. It made us proud, they remember that God is Divine One money.
—Jessica Fernandez, pasay city

The knights of relentless Squaw City would like to salute with you the great news to spread to the world...
—Ruth Carino, 31, Tagaytay

Congratulating them and suggesting they enjoy their achievement as a big saying. Ambisyoso kasi e
—Jonabib sagolon, commute city

Keep or spirits high. Every jab to Mindo [sic] and [sic] Filipino) never give up a good fight.
—glenda bonario, marinas, cavite

Congrats. Now as HARD brought you up there.
Now it's on the prize of its land & its people.
—Rodolfo De Luis, 60, Bacolor, Bulacan

Congrats! All job well done! Thank you for making us proud, and for carrying us in addition for us to go on with life, no matter how hard it can be. I am proud.
—Jennifer L. Galeste, 19, Santiago City

In the wake of higher oil prices, in what specific ways can you help conserve energy?

Turn off if TV set as soon as I hear my mother starting to hand of it...
—Lorna C. Bartio, 44, San Jacinto

Simple thing switch if computer energy, all are must use. LIGHTS OFF, CFL ONLY, EVERYTIS [sic] CFL ONLY, Kayi natin 'to!!!
—Dennis Vincent Lalaine, 20, Malabanias City

Bilang! :)
—Ria Sa Gayo, makati city

Start a meeting with civic at home, assign them a right guards. Make duty. To turn off light, when not in use.
—eduard vinges, 44, cagayan

I EXERCISE at APPLIANCES and USE ENERGY CONSUMPTION like AIRCONDITIONERS, TURNOFF AIR CONDITIONER TIMER TO 25 degrees celsius, 30 min to 1hr
—jeanne phillip santana, 18, iloilo city

By using energy saver. I would use my own car, bicycles, just walk. Don't use of electric appliances when point of emergencies.
—Lorenz MANGLAPUS, 12C, cavite city

Drive on a smaller car. Drink small. If could not, to factor of the mileage. It takes to manufacture it... and use refined motor oil in a car. Also, push for saving energy especially use non-renewable petroleum resources... It will likely be more fuel-efficient.
—ramon guevarra, builder-geeez, mandaluyong city

In consumer energy: Use other take a bus or a shuttle service, instead of using my car is going to work to consume energy.
—Jenilo Cerna, 32, pamplona city

By conserving bicycles!
—Alex mejias, 18, davao city

I will cook the good I all,cartilage jamesoul, longhoof, tapsoul, fight to consumers, 2012 to propel. Solar Sun & electric the city of really needed.
—jojo cruz, marilao,bulacan

Use the old and most important thing we can do, is USE LESS! Make our use of vehicles... For 10 saving days a month, try to go with out a car. Just be kind and stay stay for transportation. Reward your family by going out for a picnic, without using your car.... Drinking a can is a price. Sign, and a journey for two or more people to share. Every 5 years, we add about 100,000,000 more vehicles to our planet! Explore your world on foot or by bicycle. Walk, use bicycles, or take public transit to work, once a week, once a month.
—Glenn Sarmiento, Ecology Instructor, University city

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2 kidnap negotiators' bodies found

PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO—KIDNAPPERS killed two men who were negotiating for a child's release in the marshland of Maguindanao.

Supt. Ednave Nerez, chief of the Kabacanan City police, said the victims, identified as relatives of Albert Akyan and Quedan Lim, were severed in a shallow grave in Barangay Kabasalan in Pikit town on Sunday.

Nerez said the victims' remains, dressed they were shot and severed many times, allegedly by their captors led by a certain Robert Cadiao alias Kumander.

Last month, Akyan and Lim met with the captors of three-year-old Ralph Saley who was ordered by his uncle, Hanel Tasik and her boyfriend Cadiao in August.

Ralph's father is Celwin Akyan, a local employee and resident of Kabacanan City whom Tasik, Akyan, is an overseas worker.

Nerez said the child was seized by Tasik and who sold to members of the Barangay Kidnap gang.

"The grandpa [Albert Akyan] negotiated for the release of the kid but they ended up being held for ransom," Nerez said.

The boy was freed through the efforts of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front Two Butterflies ops. A week earlier, the family executed that the elder Akyan, who resided in Sultan Kudarat province, and his pal had been missing and were last seen in Sultan in Barangay [illegible] Maguindanao.

Sid Rabaka, MILF spokesperson, said Kumander is a member of the Barangay gang and was the one behind the execution of three he said Lim in Al Barakat area town.

Three [illegible] were brought to Pikit through several [illegible] in the Liguasan marshland, Rabaka said.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Pifol condemned the killings and directed the local police to start efforts in getting back the suspects.

Local officials and residents of Barangay Kabasalan said they observed nothing unusual in the village the past two weeks. They said soldiers were not patrolling and Army soldiers searching for the remains of two missing persons in the village. Arlucia G. Fernandez cited Oberlin C. Seibeq, PID Mindanao Bureau

GAMES CHILDREN PLAY
Unmindful of the dangers the polluted water may bring to their health, children swimming in the coastal area of Barangay Coastal Area and swim in the shallow portion of Manila Bay.

Quarry funds still short of projected gov't target

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO— [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Dissolution of water firm starts legal war

By Peter Lu Julian
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—A judge here has upheld a resolution of the board of the Metro La Union Water District dissolving itself, transferring control of the assets then to the provincial government and paving the way for the firm's privatization.

Judge Adolfo Alegre of the regional trial court here said the dissolution of the MLUWD board and the firm's transfer to the provincial government were "in the best interest of the general public."

Sun Alegre's decision, which in effect dissolved the MLUWD, was immediately contested by lawyers of the MLUWD board and of the La Union Water District Workers Association. Towards El-Forme Reform based here.

The employees' group earlier opposed the move of the La Union provincial government to take over the water district.

The move on April 20 came for the "planned dissolution of the water firm," resolution president Elmer Lobrera said, adding that privatizing it does not serve public interest.

Lawyer Ferdinand Corrales, Jr., one of two lawyers for the more than 80 employees of the water district, said the reasons that Alegre's order was "erroneous" because there was no hearing since the case was submitted to Alegre's sala early this year.

"There was no even a pre-trial hearing where both parties would be given an opportunity to present their side," he said.

Corrales also said he would file a motion for reconsideration within the 15-day period required by the court. Alegre's order was received by Corrales on October 6.

On the other hand, provincial administrator Jeffrey Dias, and lawyers Reynaldo Mamaclay and Gerardo Villeta, who is representing the Office of the Solicitor General, said they have already prepared a copy of a motion for reconsideration on behalf of the La Union provincial government that planned the privatization of the MLUWD.

Quoting government lawyers, Dias said they were not notified with Alegre's order since the judge based his decision only on pleadings and other documents submitted by both parties.

The case was filed late last year in the sala of Judge Victor Viloria, who exhibited himself. Judge Antonio Gutierrez also refused to hear the case, which was then shifted to Alegre's sala.

Corrales said he would contact Alegre for comment but a court employee said the judge was out of the country.

WAR GAMES EXPENSES

US to spend $100,000 on Luzon contracts

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone—The United States military was spending $100,000 (roughly P4.8 million) on local contracts for the 12-day war games in Luzon that began in this former American air base on Monday.

Marines Capt. Darrell Parmer, US public information officer, said the amount only represented contracts for the "nonlethal" portion of the war games, like transportation services of the troops, medical, dental, school and construction supplies for construction during the Talon Vi-tion and amphibious landing exercises.

More money was expected to be funneled into the local economy as each of the 4,500 US marines and sailors spends up to $100 (P4,800) in food while assigned at Clark in Angeles City that Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and Bangkay Point in Cavite, Parmer said.

Expenditures

Expenditures could be higher as there are also spending for jet fuel, lodging, landing and docking fees on airports and seaports. The amount for these items were not disclosed.

Money for "liberty," the military term for rest and recreation, was expected to be minimal.

The rigorous training and schedule and having a "wet" liberty

METRO
Editor Ester G. Dizon-Pil

Parañaque makes sure bird haven safe

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WITH A BIRD SANCTUARY tucked within its territory, the Parañaque City government is taking extra precautions to free hundreds of residents are safe from bird flu after reports of an avian flu outbreak in three provinces.

The Asselle ROAC species of bird flu had been found in some countries in Asia and in Turkey recently.

Migratory birds have started just off the Coastal Road in Barangay La Huerta near the Parkwood Phase I.

Nilmar Lacambra, spokesperson of Mayor Florencio Bernardo told the Inquirer yesterday that the city has formed Task Force Avian Flu to monitor the birds that have started flocking to the preserve with the approach of winter in neighboring countries.

The bird sanctuary, which sits on a five- to seven-hectare property of the Public Estate Authority, used to be a plain mangrove inhabited by weeds, Lacambra said.

"With the discovery of three species of birds living in the area, the city's Cultural and Tourism Office cleared the land of the weeds and developed it into a bird haven in 2003," he said.

Since then, the sanctuary has been home to some 1,500 to 2,000 varieties of bird species, the Cultural and Tourism Office said.

Several groups of bird lovers, watchers and various photography clubs have been making regular visits to the place, making the protective area of the Asselle lady in the Metro be bird sanctuary.

"They usually visit the place on weekends," said Lacambra, adding that the city was also planning to improve the place and develop it into a recreation area.

But with the bird flu scare, the city would have to divert its efforts first to protecting the sanctuary from the deadly disease, he said.

The newly erected task force will convene for the first time to discuss the city's preparations against the possible outbreak of bird flu.

Lacambra said the task force would also embark on an information drive to warn the public about the disease.

However, he stressed that the move was not meant to create panic among residents as well as bird lovers.

"The move is necessary because some people are ignoring the news that there could be a possible outbreak of the disease here in the country," he said.

The task force would also monitor backyard poultry owners and dealers in poultry products.

Representatives from the City Health Office, Agriculture Office, City Planning Office, the City Information Office, the Asselle Plastic and Environment Sanitation Office, the local Department of Education, the city police chief, the barangay captains and the mayor's public relations group have been tapped for the task force.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY TOLENTINO

MetroBriefs

Mall break-in

AGBARGA: A diagnostic center in the Sulaiman's authority in Agusan City lost more than P1 million worth of medical equipment, cash, and other valuables to burglars overtook to telebeam to overcome job. The break-in at Mercedes Inc. on the third level of the mall occurred between 8 p.m. of Oct. 13 and 10 a.m. of Oct. 14, police said. Missing were an ultrasound machine, an electrocardiogram machine, a Nokia 3230 cellular phone, and P15,000 in cash according to Antonio Acerra, president of Mercedes Inc. Investigator on case, PO2 Joseph Mandal said the burglars broke open the door to Dr. George de Guzman and X-ray technician. Biomedics officer-in-charge Melinda Dulcay said it was very likely an inside job because the burglars had the key to the (name) where the equipment was stored. CD Pia

Still missing

RESCUERS are still looking for Mich Anthony Hernandez, 12, after he was believed to have drowned near Bacolodgrong canal after heavy rains flooded the city Sunday. The body of the victim's friend, John Mac Mendoza, 10, was found earlier near the Amusement Nursery Station in Manila. Survivor Adrian Tagbay, 8, said Mendoza and Hernandez asked him to join them on a piece of styrofoam floating on the flooded canal. Hernandez is the fourth child to die in floods in Cagayan de Oro since the height of the downpour. The boys were supposed to have played in the canal that day. Tagbay said. When he saw that the water rising fast, he tried to reach out to his friends, but they were gone under. A man found Tagbay on the body and got him out of the canal. Alison C. Tandoc Jr

Euro tilt open to writers

THE DELEGATION of the European Commission to the Philippines is inviting journalists from print and online media to apply for an Internet rights to join the Natalia Flores Journalism contest. Interviews will be granted grants of the European Commission to

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY TOLENTINO

visit ITRE 14th parliament will receive a trophy and ₱50,000 for first prize and ₱15,000 for runner. Applicants must submit an essay of at least 1,000 words on human rights and/or democracy in the developing world. Or one of the official languages of the European Union, along with a summary in English, Tagalog or Spanish. Each entry must answer all the entry form, available on the Lorenzo Natali Prize website: http://www.natalia.ec.int. The deadline for submission of entries is Oct. 31.

THE FIRST day of the implementation of the Organized Bus Route scheme was marred by complaints from drivers and bus conductors who opposed a contract about the new rules. EDD DUNGO

New bus scheme gets mixed reviews

By Tarra V. Quismundo, Jocelyn R. Uy and Nancy C. Carvajal

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority (MMDA) controlled bus dispatch system had a shaky but manageable takeoff yesterday.

The MMDA's Organized Bus Route (OBR) system, aimed at reducing traffic volumes on Edsa by limiting bus stops based on convenient stations at a given time, began at 6 a.m.

"There was a little confusion because even our own taxi had to make adjustments. But we were able to manage through them on all many factors that need to change to make it permanent," MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando said.

First tested in December 2006, the OBR supposedly would reduce traffic on Edsa and boost incomes of bus operators and drivers. Buses would not have to make stops with almost the passengers but would instead be filled to near or at least 70 percent capacity.

"We think it would take several two weeks before the situation normalizes," Fernando added.

Buses were issued jumper-proof non-transferable cards. Only tagged buses would be issued numbered dispatch queue cards so they would know when they could leave the terminal.

Those queuing passed problematic in some OBR terminals, as some buses wanted to be first in line, Fernando said. This was particularly true in Balintawak, endpoint for some 1,400 buses from about 31 northern destinations, including Bicol, Cagayan, Nueva, Mindoro, and parts of Bataan.

"We need the servers read so there was only one line for the buses to line up, unlike in our other terminals where the buses are under a compound," said MMDA Traffic Operations Center (TOC) executive director Angelito Angeli de Dios. The MMDA also has OBR terminals in Sucoro, Fairview, Alabang and PITX (Ford Terminal Inc.), and seven control points where queue cards would be issued and collected.

MMDA Metropolitan Road Safety Enforcement System (MRSES) head Max Santiago, who supervised the Balintawak operations, said the agency was shorthanded.

Some 20 buses that piled first came with neither tags nor queue cards were impounded. Peñarada said buses should not pile their routes without tags.

Al Bedoria, the first on first-off policy was ignored. But conductors claimed queue cards were taken their buses were at the back of the line. But drivers and conductors complained that the new scheme irked some passengers.

Rolando Cinco, a driver plying the Baclaran-Balintawak route, said the bugaw in that on a normal day, they made two rounds on their route. But by noon yesterday, they had not even started on their first.

Bus drivers and conductors at the Monday terminal also complained about the OBR implementation.

"We waited for at least 30 minutes before we could get a Q card," said Roberto Tolosa.

He said that they were not against the OBR, but hoped the MMDA would come up with a better system in distributing queue cards.

A conductor of an air-conditioned bus said their day's earnings were drastically cut by 50 percent because they missed the peak hours.

NBI files raps vs former PAIRTF chief

Margaux C. Ortiz

THE HEAD OF THE DEFUNCT PRESIdential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (PAIRTF) is facing charges for allegedly losing intelligence officers, who were arrested in an entrapment operation last week, without any authority.

Officials of the National Bureau of Investigation said Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Director and former PAIRTF chief Ferdinando Jacinto had no authority to appoint intelligence officers.

"Only law enforcers from government agencies such as the NBI or Philippine National Police (PNP) should have been assigned to the task force," NBI Intelligence Special Operations Division (ISOD) chief Allan Castaneda said.

The NBI filed complaints of usurping charges against Jacinto and qualified bribery and illegal possession of firearms against four policemen and seven intelligence officers arrested in an entrapment operation conducted by agents of the NBI's ISOD and Special Task Force headed by Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda last week.

National Anti-Crime Task Force chief Angelo Reyes Jr. presented in a press conference SPO2 Santiago Sy and PO3 Francisco Quito of the Traffic Management Group and SPO1 Romeo Santiago and PO2 Dexter Bartolo of the Manila Police District for their alleged involvement in extortion.

The investigative officers were identified as Rolando Inso, Elmer Cano Carreon, Arthur Feliel, Boyd Lumicao, Nelson Perez, Rolando Dugan and Christopher Lucero.

"They extorted P200,000 to P1.2 million, each and they would strip our suspects if we did not cooperate," said Jerry Fernando, the complainant. Couple Jerome and Margaret Fraser were reportedly asked for P200,000 for their freedom.

Jacinto told reporters earlier that the funds was "a supposed illegal recruiter that only wanted to destroy our credibility."

Water blasting of rally indefensible

I'M A STRONG SUPPORTER AND defender of the Arroyo administration, but the "baptism" by water cannon of participants of a prayer rally Friday is indefensible.

Policemen, who were following MMDA-authorized preemptive response, didn't take into account the personalities involved in it and the fact that their rally was peaceful and orderly. It was a prayer rally and there was not a single anti-GMA placard in the crowd.

Nor respect should have been given to former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Sen. Sonny Madrigal and Rep. Teddy Casiño, and the bishops, priests and nuns who were at the head row of the march.

If the reign ignored the 77-year-old Guingona's former resident position, at least they should have respected his advanced age.

In the same manner, the elderly bishops should also have been given due respect, even if they had gone before possibly by using their religion as all the protection.

Until last Friday many people dismissed Senator Madrigal and Congressman Duenas as unnecessary nuisances in the opposition camp. But the two have become indeed martyrs in their cause, no matter their motives, after the drenching.

I was a police reporter during the time of the infamous(sic) Marcos regime. I covered many rallies, both peaceful and violent.

Marcos' military and police forces never made the mistake of dispersing prayer rallies. Their patience knew no bounds when demonstrations were participated in by well-known opposition figures.

Not all his faults, Marcos respected religion.

The President would do well to apologize to the citizenry for last Friday's incident. She should also order the commanders of both the Manila Police District and the National Capital Region Office (NCRPO).

In the aftermath of the bloodless massacre in the early years of the Cory Aquino administration, Maj. Gen. Ramon Montaño was relieved as chief of the Capital Region Command (Capcom) and Brig. Gen. Narciso Cabrera was replaced as chief of the Western Police District by Gen. Alfredo Lim.

If ERAP doesn't apologize, she will be confirming the perception that her administration is arrogant and overbearing.

The Filipino's crab mentality—pulling down people who rise up or they would not rise above those environs of their barks brush—is once again shown when some agencies are closing ranks against the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force.

If reports the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration are helping illegal recruiters and women traffickers by hitting the task force headed by Rey Jacinto.

The NBI and POEA seem to protect illegal recruiting and trafficking of women by encouraging an illegal recruiter secretary to file cases against Jacinto's men.

Jacinto's men tried to arrest the complainant upon the complainant's refusal to bribe by a broadcast journalist, when they were prevented upon by the NBI and policemen detailed at the PUEL. Jacinto's men are now detained at the NBI-jail.

PUEL Administrator Amabilia Bahlor reportedly looks with distaste at the arrest of her illegal recruiters made by ARTF.

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

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Bublé's heart, Maryo J's hug and Aiko's honey

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I AM AN OLD SOUL, PERIOD (I PROBABLY why I go for this sonorous Michael Bublé).

I unreservedly enjoyed his concert at the Big Dome last month. It was my first time to see him perform live. I was in the ring surprise. I thought it would be a quiet, laid-back evening with Bublé singing our classic songs after another. I was

Bublé is our generation's crooner who sounds like a jukebox playing old love songs. He breathes emotion into his music and makes you part of every line. And songs don't seem so old anymore. His bubbly side did not fail you to sleep. They awakened your heart—at what even time it is.

At the concert, I bumped into Benj Wardle and Luis Morales, the singer-guitarist duo of Sandwich. I also saw Dion Triad Lee Tolibas who's taking a break from his chat-and-life in London to hook up with relatives here and in Baseball. The ever chic Yenna Prieto-Valdes and the stars' eyebrow guru Vivian Serrano were enjoying Bublé's dense fans.

The jam packed crowd were sold when Bublé did his impersonations of Josh Groban, Michael Jackson and Stevie Y. His guitarist mingled with the audience and even went all the way to the bleachers to serenade a young fans. Before going in to the climax for an encore, Bublé thanked all Pinoys and said "There was a time that you never thought you'd hear me sing in this songs. You made it happen for me. I will keep coming back for you."

Bublé's music will never ever leave us. It leaves much every Pinoy's music-lobby sensitive heart.

Maryo J's hush

GREAT. Maryo J. de los Reyes and I finally call each other "Tokyo Love" because our friendship blossomed while we were in Japan. I always make it a point not to miss his birthday bashes. Maryo J. has a way of pairing his old and new friends head to head.

At the party, he told me: "It's funny that some GMA 7 people thought that I'm a secret member of ABS-CBN party since the day I'm directing is on Channel 2. I told them it's open to everybody. Hindi ex-showbiz party ng Kanser or Kapamilya. I tried to celebrate not just my birthday, but all the friendships I've made along the way."

Spotted at the party were Shallee Lily Bustamante, Budz Fernandez, Ara Mina, Lloyd Samartino, Lucho de Leon, Chanda Romero, Irene Garcia, Cherrie Pie Picache, The Mendozas, Al Tantay among others.

Although the host already made an indelible mark in the party, Maryo J. also remembered his friends. He's our online mentor who keeps issuing statements. His freshest find is a band named Mojags, made up of five gorgeous guys (Jo Arman, Orlando Bol, Manuel Bravo, Craig Alcantara and Ael Hurtado). Probably inspired Kapamilya Raymundo composed some of the band's songs. They sound like a young Apo Hiking Society. "You can smell their gayo when around town. As I was watching Brok do the pakusot with Maryo J. they were really too much. You see this is till I smiled and told them, "I'll love like this doesn't happen only in the movies." And Brok will never shout "Go!" to all the loving around him in all his birthday moments.

Just asking

IS THE soft spin-up of Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras for real? If they haven't reached their saturation point yet, show biz watchers have already. They say the couple had better stop eying "stuff" or the big bad wolf might just gobble up their hearts.

Also for the record—if "Dalaw" (which totally missed me), let it be that Star Cinema's next movie will be "Mistress" with Kristine Hermosa as one of the lead stars! Pinoy love stories shot in foreign lands apparently have hit a home run. Whatever is the world Pinoy press, the very Utmost.

A concerned citizen asks: Why does Jeremiah Sala often get his lyrics wrong when he's singing on TV? Isn't that worse than a belly unchoreographed top-notch song?

How can Alko Mapalo be called a "boyfriend grabber" by people close to his constant date, model Sharla Ann

SPORTS

E-mail sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra

Outfitter for RP bets wanted

THE UNIFORM DESIGN FOR THE 10th straight Philippine team for the coming 23rd SEA Games has yet to be finalized just 30 days before the biennial meet gets going. There are only 31 sports without an official sponsor after diesel, the driving apparel and athletic shoe company, agreed to shoulder only the uniforms of athletes in 10 events.

FILA-AM tennis reservist Rizza Zalameda will plant in Iran the US$1 billion the end of the month to sharpen up for the coming Games. The 19-year-old US NCAA division I standout has committed to play for the Philippines in the Nov. 17-Dec. 4 meet where teams will stake a total of seven gold medals. Abaang B. Castillo

Franz, Salgado give side on La Salle cage inquiry

By Jazmine W. Paya

A DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE FORMED to investigate the controversy surrounding the Green Archer who allegedly submitted false eligibility documents yesterday called team officials led by coach Franz Pumaren and assistant team manager Manny Salgado to shed light on the case.

PUMAREN

BENITEZ

SALGADO

"The investigation is ongoing and we're trying as agreed it up and make sure that it's exhaustive," said Leo Tanjuatco, a member of the four-man panel investigating the case brought into the open by ML5 coach.

"We'd need adding for a little more patience," added Tanjuatco. "We're trying to finish it as soon as possible. We'll be coming up with an official report soon."

Mark Benitez—the 6-foot-5 center identified in various published reports as the super who allegedly submitted false high school records to gain eligibility to the school and to the team—is expected to air his side "within the week."

"We'll also be calling people for interviews," said Tanjuatco, a member of La Salle's board of trustees and board of regents. "But we really can't go into details."

Mark's father, Mesh Benitez, recently denied the school's claim that his son had been excused twice for questioning.

The elder Benitez said his son hasn't received a "formal invitation," but his family is "willing to come out in the open."

La Salle executive vice president Br. Controller Jacinto confirmed a committee composed of a legal counsel and a representative each from the DAAP board, the University Registrar and the Office of Sports Development to resolve the issue.

But she recently noted that the investigation hasn't progressed since the panel is still waiting for Benitez "to show up."

Quetchuyo also said that other people likely to be called for questioning "include those who received the documents from the admissions office."

Last week, La Salle said the Archers were willing to forfeit their 2004 UAAP men's basketball crown after learning that it had unknowingly fielded an ineligible player in the last three years.

Officials said the Philippine Educational Placement Test Certificate of Rating submitted by the player "was not genuine, thus rendering him ineligible."

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I am CHEVROLET

Asian Ladies tees off at John Hay

BAGUIO CITY—DEFEND TEAMS LED by defending champion Manila fourth-round champ the three divisions after it spike in the 2nd Asian Ladies Team Championships Friday off at the Camp John Hay Golf Clubhouse today.

Manila fourth-round champ is known by forward to retain the crown it won in a marvelous fashion last year in the 54-hole journey headed by Sanny Concepcion at the tournament and Gilda Cordero, Club Executive Sanny, GM Eliseo Bord and Ly Chef as sponsors.

Leading the assault for fourth-round in the four-holes, three-round event are former national player Gwendolen Hilarinoso and club champion Rachel Abreau. Handily absent is Tracy Lucas, who missed the individual title last year.

Also in the field are two teams each from Camp John Hay "Alkaren Ladies and Bord Belle Reserved, Philippine Navy Phoenix, Royal Woodlands, Valley Peak Peak and Baguio Country Club.

Peak West hopes to the biggest draws to fourth-round's repeat bid with a lineup composed of Liz Lopez, Stephanie Fu, Bing Llave and Hilda Nicolas. Nicolas is the overseer to win fourth jungle members Cora Rodriguez and Jacelyn Sison at the helm.

Format is Modified Stableford to Modified par system with a double bogey worth 7 points, 6 for hole-in-one, 5 for eagle, 4 for birdie, 3 for par, 2 for bogey and 1 point for a double bogey.

Bi-ding tools for golf is John Hay as the season-ng Sally Men's Pine will be held on Oct. 23-25 immediately after the team holes on Thursday.

There will be a welcome cocktails at the Manor Garden at 6:00 p.m.

EAC, Lyceum volleybelles put away WNCAA championships

RUBY TABLEAZAR TRAGON COLLEGE (MANILA) and Lyceum of the Philippines bagged the WNCAA 2nd- Indie season crowns collected all five sets they contributed at the EAC gym, even as San Beda College, Arellano and Mapúa College were Game 1 of their respective title series.

EAC beat Mapúa Game One, 31-29, 25-15, 22-25, 19-25, 15-11, and scored the clincher the next days, 30-28, 25-23, 25-22, 25-20, 15-13 to take home the series 3-1 trophy.

Mapúa took Game 1 last Oct. 9, 23-15, 13-25, 14-25, 25-14.

Lyceum, which gained a twice-to-beat incentive after sweeping all its 14 games in the eliminations, beat Arellano in the Pirates' own territory on Game One, 25-17, 25-20, 25-21, for the series 2-0 crown.

It was the Lady Pirates' fourth straight title.

CSGA leader Ara Galang's best-of-three series over La Salle College champion, 1-0, after pounding out a 25-15, 25-17, 25-11 win.

Allyson Silao was power the junior level finals against St. Scholastica's College, which defeated its straight sets, 25-22, 25-23, 25-19.

'Reinstate BAP briefly, save SEAG caging'

By Jane Nicanor

REINSTATE THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION of the Philippines temporarily to save basketball in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

This, according to BAP president Jerry Lim, is the easiest solution to the current controversy, although he admitted that this is easier said than done with the Philippine Olympic Committee keen on keeping the BAP out of the local Olympic body.

"This would facilitate the filing of the Phils. entry before the 30th, the POC continues to stand pat on its decision. Lim told the business during the 2nd Liberal Ball Bandit game at the Phil Sports Arena last night.

If the BAP regulations is set aside, Lim said, the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) would lift its suspension on Dr. Philippines to join the way for the country's participation in the SEAG, which the country will host from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Another way out, he said, is for the Filoils clubs only pardon the country even if the POC has not sanctioned the BAP.

"The POC had already requested the Phils to do

LIM: Excited solution

this whether the country would be allowed to see action in the SEAG. In turn, the Filoils said in statement passed, Philip Ramirez, 'would decide on the matter only after Oct. 24.

"There are five million Filipinos, most of them basketball fans who are looking forward to watching our basketball players see action in the SEA Games," said Lim. "It will be a big disappointment if there's no basketball in the SEAG.

Lim said the absence of the event in the regional meet would alienate people from the basketball backed-up, making Caribbean, in the long run, to get support for basketball programs.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said only the general assembly could recall the suspension. He has vowed to step down from his post if the BAP is reinstated.

Lim said the Phils without two regular the Beijing Olympics in order to avoid the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) rule that only two players from the national pool can play in the Asian tournament.

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FUREFOOD!! Mapúa Cheetah Jun Lucero (left) and NU Bulldogs veteran Jonathan Salvador (5). The Game was, 42-40.

₱1.8M budget for staging beach volley

By Mon Anthony Reyes

"THIRTY SEVEN PAIRS OF NET-SAVE THREE courts, two gold medals and ₱1.8 million.

These are the figures required for the staging of the fourth volleyball event of the Southeast Asian Games scheduled Oct. 2005 next month.

Philippine Amateur Volleyball Association (Philvolleyball) president Ramon Suzara revealed a budget worth around 500 metric tons of white sand from the coastal towns of Subic and Cavite will be needed for the three courts that will be set up at the University of the Philippines (UP) football field.

"Two stand-up courts and one competition court will also be built in front of the school's gymnasium.

"We estimated the cost to reach ₱1.8 million, with the building of sand-venting up much of the amount," said Ramirez. "We are actually thinking of renting a barge to haul the sand because trucks cannot enter the campus days."

The source also relates the entire sand will come are about sixteen hour drive from the SEAG site.

In all, the Baseball organizers said they have already earned Pacific Inn because they will not be spending for the construction of the facilities, which will be put to use after the Southeast Asian Games for the SEAG competitions.

"At first, we thought of bringing over the sixteen sands of Boracay, but that would cost us more because Boracay is far from here compared to the two towns," said Ramirez.

Confession not enough

THE GOOD THING ABOUT THE PLAYER IS its eligibility once it gets to playing. De La Salle is at your brought into the open for the school's self. Had it not been done this way the school would have been the object of a never-ending dose of underneath for keeping it dark as well that is because Ateneo already be everybody except De La Salle.

The bad thing about it is it is not being resolved with finality. By said now, everything's up to the air when it should have ended the day De La Salle entered the hoods.

Look, the initial disclosure was talkstar was found ineligible to play in 2004.

That should have ended there.

I mean, it should have ended there. Semifinals and resolution.

You reveal a horrible crime, you resolve it right there and there.

You reveal it, however, go get yourself hand cuffed and start nabbin the consequences.

But no.

De La Salle debated in honorable semifinalists with debate-ridden issues that somehow buried the school deeper into mud.

First, it said it was not revealing the name of the ineligible player for legal reasons. That's a reasonable act, to say the least.

You say something and next withhold something from your own information, better not to have said anything at all. A half-baked move could only be applied to the greatest.

What the law says is you don't disclose a name if the person involved is a minor.

Who told De La Salle it's a minor when he allegedly faked his documents to gain entry into the De La Salle senior basketball team?

You don't. It's, you see, a minor when the alleged faked his documents to gain entry into the De La Salle senior basketball team?

You don't. It's, you see, a minor when the alleged faked his documents to gain entry into the De La Salle senior basketball team?

Maybe Khali Bonifer was a minor when the crime was committed, the reason De La Salle had withheld his name when it dropped the bomb that shook Philippine sports?

I'm sure Mark Escueta didn't do it alone. Escueta must have been very supportive women of De La Salle had initially refused to reveal the player's name and had first wanted to put all the culprits down before disclosing the identities of all the persons involved?

What we, I believe of the Ateneo must be 20 more or even older so that De La Salle would have been justified if it had turned him outright to the cellist. That way, all of Manila Metro Games Archers are involved suspicion.

To repeat, the revelation was not done in De La Salle's favor—as found by De La Salle as well, right to play in 2004, the year the Green Archers won the UAAP crown.

Black Beauty may not have been solely responsible for it. Just as Escueta, winning Most Valuable Player of the Finals it is only justifiable to say some of him. From his immediate headshrunk from the school would have been justified, too.

The second thing about the half-baked statement that De La Salle made it in some confusion of the De La Salle saw a threshold authorities' decision "to offer to return" the UAAP championship trophy it won in 2004.

There is no other thing to do when De La Salle submitted having lobbied in ineligible players from its respectively return the Trophy because their trophy does not rightfully belong to the school.

Combos and return. And there must a public apology.

There's nothing more honorable than that.

Any investigation that will ensue is too gung-ho.

Now, here's the question: was for me to get sole announcement me, per phone for the SEA Games, Cliff Rodrigo C. Santos, the assistant, executive vice president. For human resources of the SEA Games' executive news contacts. Call Bob at 09 18 6838881 or 0927 8888276. I promise me your e-mail, cliveline action more you get in touch with Bob. He's waiting for your call.

Best deal.

(Email: tsenga@philstar.ph)

Sportswatch

MY Games lures foreign youth athletes

THE WEST MANILA YOUTH GAMES (MY GAMES) STARTING TODAY AT SM, PA-international has gained international flavor with the entry of foreign athletes in the first-ever youth sports multi-gathering initiated by city local government unit Amador "Ali" Ataman, chair of the organizing Manila Sports Council Bureau, announced that athletes from the United States, including Hawaii, Canada, and Britain have registered to join the 10-day competition. Ataman said the foreign athletes will be billeted in the Manila Hotel during the duration of the games. "We are very proud that this national sports endeavor has attracted international interest although the MY Games is primarily for local youth athletes. We can then foreign participation as a welcome development, so our hats should be off to an international guest delegation for their foreign participation," said the second Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. The MY Games will open with a parade of athletes and major rallies, main competitions and events are being played for twenty-eight sports at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and Ninoy Aquino Stadium. The MY Games will open with a parade of athletes and major rallies, main competitions and events are being played for twenty-eight sports at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Event Venue: Land Bank, Robinsons, Gemalto, Alkaline parts and Gatorade Makers.

Support pours for Subic Nat'l Marathon

CLOTON L. BUSBUSLA (CNS) HAS THROWN ITS SUPPORT TO THE PHILIPPINE National Police-organized 1st Subic National Marathon slated Oct. 23 from the Subic Bay Freeport. "The endurance the advocacy campaign with the PNP to mount a breathing up a good sport and healthy lifestyle," said Gen. Arnold Ybiet. "And they deserve all the support they can get," said Company president Jesse Robredo. The award, expected to draw thousands of runners and competitors runners from all over Luzon, was launched recently at a press conference in Camp Crame given up by PNP-chief Director General Arturo Lomibao and Chief Supt. Jane Yaroy officer in charge of the PNP Sports and Security Command. Other sponsors and supporters of the event Dennis L. Rodrigo Robredo and a basketball team contended by last season in the 1st Division and second NCR, this is 1000 at the sequence of Sandoza.

Laguna's Reyo dominates GCAP staggfest

FRAN MANUEL A. LINGSAT (NEW OF LAGUNA MARATHON, BRIDGESTONE Photo. It crowned the Second Indie to take the 400-leg of the Gatorade Endurance Series online of the Philippines (GCAP) to stage thirty-six event at San Juan Coliseum. 90-100 climbing control here store and a stretch to run the 20-metric running event. Arthur Gonzales of the Sun Bowl Association (SBA) and Jeffrey Ong Tan Jr. of the Sun Bowl will battle with Japanese Federation 1000 in contest. Information of we blue is scheduled to the Team Zoom to Run in Philippines may call the SEC office at 726-9000, 726-2000 to 727-7000 and look for Sun. The event's management is also gearing up for the Big Zoom 8 Bang Derby on Oct. 30 and 28.

Makati Coliseum hosts NCA 7-stag tilt

TOKYO (CNS) — GOVERNOR'S CUP (NCA) 7-stag derby at the Makati Coliseum. More than 100 fighters are scheduled to participate in the event, which is sanctioned by the Philippine Gamefowl and Breeders Association. The event is organized by Governor Jejomar Binay, Jing Panlilio, Boy Arellano and Mr. Jo Guzman to push the Philippine Derby held Oct. 4 and 5 after their early Rizal to Manila and it's a perfect score of seven rounds. The event is expected to attract some foreign fans, guest Brandon Bigham. Those in challenge there are the reigning champion Jing Panlilio, Boy Arellano, Jo Guzman, Governor Jejomar Binay, Governor Lino Cayetano, Secretary Boy Abaya, Undersecretary Jose Calderon, Commissioner Ryan Bautista, Jay Gallego, William Go, Representatives Jerry "Boy" Espina, Rozzano Rufino, Jing Panlilio and president and fighter Fidela Arellano.

LGBA derby finals at Big Dome today

[illegible] Tanay Cup Derby and the Governor's Cup Derby. Both will be held at the Philippine Cockpit Arena in Quezon City. The Tanay Cup Derby will be held on Oct. 16 and the Governor's Cup Derby will be held on Oct. 23. The Tanay Cup Derby will be held on Oct. 16 and the Governor's Cup Derby will be held on Oct. 23.

FIRST NATIONAL CHAMP: Jose Vergara (left) is his partner.

Vergara captures Compak sporting clays shoot crown

HELEN DAVID, REAL—Former national shoot shooter and Rizal national team coach Jun Vergara of Team Barangay's Best shot 362 clay birds to win the inaugural Rizal Governor Isidro Ca Philippines Navy-level Compak Sporting Clays Championship at the Rizal Provincial shooting range here.

Vergara beat Bonito Hayag, Mercy Bernardo, a five-TV host and Bombo Radio Games hosting gold medalist Robert Dennis and Gabby Tenorio four-time's finish of the 100-clay bird shootfest.

Hayag finished with 355, Bernardo netted 355, Gamez had 354 and Tenorio scored 351.

With his win, Vergara was proclaimed the first "national champion" of the country's biggest sporting clay tournament.

Rizal topped Class A, while Industrial Olympian George Estrada and Carlo Garcia ruled Junior/Rizal C, respectively.

Gamez, who is also president of the Sporting Clays Association of the Philippines, emerged 20-gauge champion, Jolne Gatus topped the ladies' division and Hector de Zuno bagged the veterans class crown.

SCAP-Marikina's Erick Garcia and the event supported by Bench, Hemera, GEN-7, Bayona's Boosters, Nestlé, Rudy Project, GI Joe Tire, The Tire, Caterpillar Shoes, Lonzo de Boys, Mossland Cameo, Bebop Resto, Mobile 1, Ipot, Oakley-eyes and Rubber-wise is big success.

Gamez said Vice Mayor Jun Ynares made it possible for the sport Ynares donated helpful use of municipality's Ayala sharpshooter.

Over ₱180,000 at stake in Yakult 10-Miler

THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATION SEASON IS JUST on way.

After the 29th Milo Marathon two weeks ago and the Adidas Kings of the Road last month comes another big running event—the annual Yakult 10-Miler meet, both are training for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games set here next month.

This event give the more than 2,500 runners trying to be where a chance to avoid the limelight and bring home the ₱7,000 equipment.

"Today, Phils. has been registering the sports of running since 1983, holding 10K running events, monthly," said Albert De Sues, president of the organizing Yakult Phils. Inc.

Andy Ivan, the consultant 20-mile 13,000 years, Yakult will also hand trophies and medals to the winners in the 5K and 3K mini-events.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANSLEY NO. 991

THE WHITE Sox celebrate after beating the Angels, 6-1, in Game 5. AP

White Sox head to World Series

Down Angels for AL pennant

ANAHEIM, CALIF.—JOE CREDE DROVE A 3-1 fa ball with a two-out infield single in the eighth inning on Sunday to send the Chicago White Sox to their first World Series since 1959, with a 6-3 victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

With the Game Five victory, Chicago grabbed the team's first American League pennant since the team with a 4-1 victory in the best-of-seven league championship series and earned the chance to play for their first world title since 1917.

They will host the opening game of the World Series on Saturday against the winner of the National League Championship Series between the Houston Astros and the St. Louis Cardinals.

The Astros lead that best-of-seven series 2-1.

The White Sox, who dropped the first game of the series before starting back to win four straight, threw off bats on the road, celebrated on the field in droves.

They were cheered on by about 1,000 die-hard fans who shrugged off a windy rain to support a team that has not brought home a championship in almost 90 years.

"Underneath that a lot of people, grown-ups, have come and gone and not seen their team win the World Series," White Sox general manager Ken Williams said to a champagne-soaked clubhouse.

"It's got to be great back there in Chicago. I'm happy for all of them."

Crede tied the game in the seventh inning on a solo home run, then drove in the game-winner after Angels relievers Kelvim Escobar failed to make the 23rd out at first base on a soft grounder by A.J. Pierzynski.

Though the Angels—who had already run off the field, believing that they had ended the inning—argued that he still needed to touch first base, umpire Ed Rapuano calmly showed Escobar tapping Pierzynski with his glove while holding the ball in his bare right hand.

Crede came up with two outs and dispatched a grounder up the middle that Los Angeles second baseman Adam Kennedy attempted to stop.

But Kennedy's throw to the plate was too late to get the streaking Aaron Rowand, who scored from second. Reuters

Astros victory shy of NL title

HOUSTON, TEXAS—THE ASTROS edged the Cardinals, 2-1, here Sunday to move within one game of reaching the World Series for the first time.

Starter Brandon Backe combined with four relievers on a five-hitter as the Astros took a commanding three-games-to-one lead in the best-of-seven National League Championship Series.

Morgan Ensberg plated the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the seventh inning for Houston, whose three ace pitchers are scheduled to start the next three games.

Andy Pettitte will get the call Monday for game five against the Cards' Chris Carpenter.

If the Cardinals send the series back to St. Louis for games six and seven, Houston has the game winner Roy Oswalt and seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens on the hill.

"For us, it's the best one out of three right now," Astros manager Phil Garner said. "It doesn't get any easier. We're in good position at home of our pitching, our players and everything." AFP

Maccabi subdues Raptors

TORONTO—THE Raptors became the first NBA team to lose to Maccabi Tel Aviv in 27 years when Antoine Parker's jumper with 0.8 second left lifted the Israeli club over Toronto, 100-98, on Sunday.

Parker, who played in the NBA for Philadelphia and Orlando, had 24 points. Omri's Mitoch Wayn added 23 points and 5 rebounds for Maccabi, the European champion.

Chris Bosh had 27 points and 12 rebounds in 41 minutes, and Jalen Rose had 18 points in 41 minutes for Toronto.

Maccabi hadn't beaten an NBA team since 1976 when they knocked off the then-champion Washington Bullets. They had lost nine straight before holding off the Raptors, who played their starters most of the way.

Maccabi's Yotam Halperi hit Rose's layup attempt and Mike Jones' layups before Will Solomon gave Tel Aviv a 95-93 lead with a 3-pointer ... then Bosh fouled once the first quarter. AP

Sorenstam posts record fifth win; Wie disqualified

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA—MICHELLE Wie was unceremoniously disqualified on her professional debut on Sunday, overshadowing a brilliant display by Swedish teammate, who raced to a record fifth victory in the Women's World Championship.

Sorenstam dominated the event from the opening day and the Swede, who led by four strokes overnight, eased to an eight-shot triumph with a final round three-under par 69 for a 278 total, on a day that included two three hours of weather delays.

Wie had slumped to a final round 74 that was still good enough for a creditable fourth-place finish, but a sharp evolution to her third round on Saturday was highlighted to officials and the 16-year-old Hawaiian was subsequently disqualified.

American Paula Creamer fired a final round 70 to finish alone in second place, a stroke clear of South Korean Gloria Park who managed a 74.

It was also the first time that Sorenstam had won the same tournament five times—equaling an LPGA record set by Mickey Wright in the Jax Island Open between 1957 and 1963—and the $312,500 prize her ninth both her eighth LPGA money list title ($1,205,146) and a record eighth. Player of the Year title. Reuters

This time, Wes is far from short

NEW YORK—AMERICAN JOHNNY Wes Short Jr. hit the jackpot at the Las Vegas Championship on Sunday, beating three-time winner Jim Furyk at the second playoff hole to claim his first career title.

Short, who started the week 176th on the money list and battling to finish in the top 125 to secure his card for next season, scooped a first prize of $720,000 and a two-year PGA Tour exemption.

It was truly a Cinderella week for the 41-year-old Short, who only gained entry to the $4 million event following Arron Oberholser's withdrawal.

"I can't talk. I don't have to go to work school now. I'm so happy," Short said.

"I finished really well, with an eagle and two more pars." Reuters

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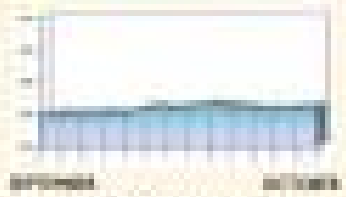

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

$1 = ₱56.016

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 18, 2004

$1 = ₱56.16

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 17, 2004

GOLD: $417.80-418.30

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Shares close 0.29% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY
Overall 0.29% downtrend seen; weighted down by losses in market leader Philippine Long Distance

Agri recovery seen to boost Q3 GDP

Higher 2nd half growth to improve chance of hitting '05 target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ECONOMY, AS measured by the country's gross domestic product, is seen to have grown by at least 5 percent in the third quarter of the year helped on by a recovery in agriculture.

Augusto Santos, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), yesterday said corn and palay output, which represent about 25 percent of total agriculture production, posted positive figures in the July-to-September period.

Santos said the actual GDP figures would be available by next month.

The economy is also seen to expand by 5.9 percent in the second half, with full-year growth expected to hit 5.2 percent from 6.7 percent in 2003.

MAYTES

"There was no untoward events or deviations in the third quarter," Santos yesterday said in the unveiling of the Senate hearing on the proposed 2005 national budget. "We have a good chance of hitting the full-year target."

The 10 Mike weather problem and strong typhoon caused severe disruption in agricultural supply in the second half of 2004.

The GDP growth of 5 percent or higher for the third quarter of the year would be better than the 4.6 percent and the 4.5 percent recorded in the first and second quarters, respectively.

Neda said the economic growth in the third quarter would keep the country on track to achieving the low-end of the 5.5- to 6.5-percent GDP growth target for the whole of 2004.

Romulo Neri, Neda's policy and planning division director said the fourth quarter is expected to post a higher GDP growth figure than that of the third quarter.

"Historically, the economy remains above the rate in the second and third quarters, and then picks up in the fourth quarter of the year," Neri explained.

He added that the economy could post an average GDP growth of 5.9 percent in the second half.

The remaining needs to grow by at least 5.9 percent in the second semester to meet the low-end GDP growth target for the full year.

The farm sector—comprising nearly a third of the economy—grew just 0.7 percent in the first half from a year earlier due to severe damage to crops brought about by weather disturbances.

In the first half, GDP expanded 4.7 percent from a year earlier.

The economy grew 6.4 percent in the second quarter from the same 2003 period, beating the median forecast of a 6.0 percent rise in Reuters poll.

The economic planning agency earlier said agriculture is forecast to grow 3.2 percent in the second half from a year earlier, industry by 4.7 percent, and services by 4.5 percent. With a report from Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE

NTC cold to enforce standards /B-2

Aug. loan growth slowest this year /B-3

Mr. Bubbles

Let us spray /B-3

T-Bill rates drop across the board

BANKS YESTERDAY SCRAMBLED FOR short-term government securities after experiencing liquidity shortcomings, a sentiment that drove Treasury bill rates across all maturities.

The bellwether 91-day T-bill rate, used by banks as a benchmark in pricing loans, slid by 5.9 basis points to only 5.43 percent.

"The low interest rate is the sentiment reflection of the liquidity in the market," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz in a press briefing after yesterday's T-bill auctions.

The 182- and 364-day government securities also continued to trade lower rates. The new interest rate for the six-month bill stood at 7.003 percent, or 6.6 basis points lower than the 7.068 percent recorded last week. The latest rate of 8.938 percent for the one-year debt instrument was 4.8 basis points lower than last week's 8.975 percent.

Out of the ₱3 billion debt offering through the 91-day bill, tenders reached ₱5.047 billion. The 182-day bill was at least the same size subscribed, as bids stood at ₱6.33 billion compared with the debt offering of only 1.5 billion. The 364-day bill gathered bids worth ₱7.532 billion, although the debt offering was only at ₱3 billion.

Despite the high volume of bids, the government raised only ₱4.288 billion from the auction, compared with the combined debt offerings of ₱4.5 billion for all T-bill issues. This was because the Treasury's auction committee decided to accept only ₱885 million worth of tenders for the 91-day bill, as against the scheduled borrowing of ₱1 billion.

"I don't want to pay higher because I don't need the excess cash," Cruz explained. He said that had the Treasury accepted ₱5 billion worth of bids for the 91-day debt paper, interest rates could have gone higher than the recorded 5.433 percent.

Michelle V. Remo

91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES

NTC told to enforce standards

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS RAPPED THE National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) for enforcing a May 2005 order allowing cellular phone companies to set their own unlimited pricing and network quality standards.

The CA's decision that for the 60-day period, the NTC would have to enforce its 2002 circular requiring wireless players to transmit 95 of 100 calls on the first attempt and not promising to drop 5% of 100 calls.

The appellate court issued the 60-day temporary restraining order against the NTC last week in response to a petition filed by Pilipino Telephone Corp., a subsidiary of the country's largest mobile firm, Smart Communications Inc., which questioned the unilateral pricing scheme of competitor Sun Cellular.

Sun Cellular is the mobile phone brand of Digital Mobile Phils. Inc.

Filed ahead of the network standards were similarly outlawed, Sun Cellular's CA petitioner would find the quality test.

Sun Cellular was said to connect only 30 of 100 calls on the first attempt. It would also fail the standard on drop calls since it automatically cuts off calls after 15 minutes.

Interim Communications Inc., a wholly-owned unit of Globe Telecom Inc., has a separate petition before the CA to nullify the NTC's May 24 and Sept. 22 orders making Sun Cellular's 24/7 scheme pre-terminal.

Both carriers alleged that NTC erred in issuing the May order.

Piltel has Talk 'N Text while Innove owns the Touch Mobile brand.

Skidding aside

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bautista III

ONCE IN A WHILE, NEWSMEN LIKE ME have to censor the episodic, but still trying to be more circumspect in the Glorietta jam for running out of newsprint power.

But what I should—but kind of wrong? What a joke I really am!

Seriously, I have a little wish for my comrades and customers on this week—and also, by the way, for the suffering of the rest of my family, dear friends and neighbors.

And, that is, I hope and pray that the right people get to read this little piece about these ludicrous incentives in the skidding, rails, barbed administration.

BY THE WAY, just in case the photo do not get it, or the rest of my list are the wonderful men and women of the airport police squads.

I particularly refer to those policemen and policewomen wielding those thwacking brandies called batuteburan.

Due of these days, those legs may just not, drastically, bring you to the general direction of our hotels.

Included in the list, of course, are the Presidential Security Group, the not-so-secret police, and that convoluted offensive in the military.

By this situation, we already know whom side I'm on, and it is not the side of those who pay for their services with last centavo of our money.

At the end of my priority list of people who nobly deserve my endless flattery are those supposed "violators" to be issued some high-powered weapons.

According to a responsible source, you see, the weapons were already smuggled into the country by "unknown" people.

Mostly probably, they are "unknowns" only to the police and the military authorities.

That's the spirit with my venting! I can't take no more of this chiling!

HEY, guys, I only want to say that, with respect, you are the most handsome guys in the whole wide world.

Please do not the sleepers house of cleaning your service boots with my tongue, and the esteemed privilege of licking them with the best on my head.

Anything for you guys, seriously, because kidding aside, down in my heart, I really salute your bloodsuckery!

So, yes, sir, I will give the best-smelling pieces, and even the audacious bishops, first touch diamond look on the streets, isn't Or more probably it's . . . well, "not on."

Mind, yes, not on, I will take care of the results of the elections, no no, even if it becomes two-thirds, no no.

IS IT JUST ME for my studying administration, and this little career talk, the anti-vice squads could please remember that I am on cool list of the CPP.

Whoops! I can't hear you, hem, no no. What do you mean? Are you telling the taxpayers of the poverty-stricken republic that CPPs here are dead for "confidentiality reasons" now?

We grow up believing that CPP is something you learn in PE swimming class, just in case some bishops will need it.

So maybe, no one here knew CPR in the life Militant group consisting journalists and known foreign Affairs Minister Carlos P. Romulo.

Three of us who have relatives in North American know CPR simply as the "Canadian Pacific Railway."

In diplomatic jargon, CPR also refers to the United Nations covenant on "civil and political rights."

But the first morning for CPR, the everyone I become its avid fan, is the "Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation."

It is up to you to decide to release the last mean spoiler.

And I can, of course, only joking again. Ubu, ubu, ubu!

ONCE in a while, this cute administration comes across an idea so unapproved, it takes the whole country by storm—in more precisely by water cannons.

I'm again just saying—that—because it's all in how the very like cute administration uses "stress" to those who are praying for it through "prayer rallies."

So reality the "prayer, w. rallyists" are not praying for this country but still cute administration, but for themselves.

And so, as an avid fan of the CPR, I must say to those "prayer rallyists" that if they think they can shame the fun into said women of that cute administration under the dy leadership of those terrible, I can't think of the word, here" should be prepared to take a shower with three-bullets on.

CPR is the best thing that ever happened to this country since the invention of the rotary chamber.

There, here, remember my advice the "emergency rule" comes, or whatever they will eventually call "martial law."

IF AND when that time comes, it will oddly to occur to me that this style, lovely, honest, caring administration is of course very cute. The "dictator of popular consent" as a result of the "Hello Garci" scandal, and the repression that followed it.

By that time, in fact, I will already think that everybody who has anything to do with the unofficial, unpaid, unlawful, cute administration, should become saints.

All right, so I am a coward, and I wouldn't last at the thought of endless despotic regime in this country. So sue me.

I will gladly give you to defend this cute administration in our "country solitude," that's me, guided for fighting for nothing but some dirty notions called truth, justice and freedom.

ONE RICH old man recently told me about his dreams for this country. He talked of leadership, of morality, formation of the economy could be in our region be good models.

Index dreams, we finally had a straight-faced, concerned about nothing else but ridding that country of poverty.

Such a leader can only kill his compliments to the 3,000 most powerful families (extended families—that, or last—killing them if they want to get rich under his or her leadership, they should go into business, instead.

Those 3,000 families can then each influence 100 other people, bringing the circle of influences to 30,000 people right now).

From 18,000 people, by running 100 people each, you get the number in the government to be entering one million.

Does this cute oldies dictatorship figure in the dream? The old may comply-smiled.

In the police and the military, yet to cute, he was also only kidding—okay!

Shares

Previous page B1

Telephone and ahead of a Supreme Court ruling on the new Value Added Tax (VAT) law, the counterpiece of the government's fiscal policy double-cued.

They said fresh concerns over the VAT law, which has been held up by legal challenges from the opposition, combined with the likelihood of a further rise in interest rates managed to dampen sentiment.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 66 points or 1.34% to 4,940.48, and 1,260.14, volume totaled 200.03 million shares worth P7.6 billion. 40.2.23 million.

Losers led gainers 46 to 18, with 56 stocks unchanged.

The peso was at 55.79 to the dollar at mid-day trade.

"There's a lot of hesitation in the market," said Jonathan Ravelo of Banco de Oro Universal Bank. "Investors are waiting for the court's ruling on the VAT."

The Supreme Court is expected Tuesday to rule on whether to lift a three-month old freeze order on the new VAT. —AFP

DISCLOSURES

EEI Corp. A executive committee was reorganized, with Perry Ong as committee chair and Roberto De Ocampo, Ramon Jose Cardillo and Ramon Lim as members.

CENTRAL BOLT (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp. announced the resignation of Eric Chua and John Li as members of the board of directors. Chua resigned for one share in the bank to Dean Ong, while Li transferred his one share to William Hua.

AFB Kian Ong Financial Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 8, 7:30 a.m., at the 19th, 20/F Tower One and Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 4 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

PETROENERGY Resources Corp. director Yvonne Yuchengco sold 60,000 shares on Oct. 11 through BDO Securities.

F & P Homes Inc. will hold a special meeting of stockholders on Nov. 14, 10 a.m., at the Iloilo Country Club, Ingawihan Street, M. Roxas Village, Jaro Dist., La Paz, Iloilo City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 4 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. *Compiled by: Cyd L. Bondoc, PDI Research*

Let us spray

WEATHER BY INSIDER (BI) SF members, an appalling luncheon took place on Saturday. A pesticides spray company was ordered by some concrete catering a mass exodus. Three lindsays got a lasting day dated expert and two were moved. And about 20 years passionately. Apparently a pediatrician involved a call to fire on the crowd and did so, singling Rose Anne, how many. In the ensuing chaos, two priests were distressed, some infinitely baptized, and the mass reinstated out of habit.

Even the Virgin Mary has got spirited. Also known as a Marianapest offense. The church was incensed. The commander denied giving the order but accepted responsibility, because the Mendiola Bridge spans no dove, the length of the procession appeared "dropped." Some security luminaries suggested that the order came from Gloria. The palace denied involvement and said it was a clerical error.

The weekend before last, I became extremely breathless and decided to spend time in the hospital. An X-ray showed fluid in my left lung so my solid had turned into pneumonia. The doctor gave me antibiotics and steroids, which have terrible side effects. My triceps and triceps turned into hippogriff's wax twice and I needed to take Viagra. Pounded, I called his assistant, Amy, and she said, "It's time to get a second opinion."

Dr. Ben NaVarro has just TKL. Three lookers are having a mad dance on Asia and they have to invest the funds in the proportion designated by the indexes. As J.P. Morgan is relatively a newcomer, it has been buying large amounts of Asian stocks, including our own. That is why our market has been so overbought.

In the case of other brokers, most have been transferring FE spins stocks out of old funds into the new ones. This is known as evening or making even sales, again from increasing turnover, they are underwater, as they are purely internal transactions. One day last week, gross turnover was P1.2 billion but P600 million was cross sales and P554 million a block sale of TEL worth P20.4 million. Including these, net turnover is usually only P250-P300 million a day. Last Friday, gross turnover was a healthy P1.2 billion but there were many investors in the market rather than you would find in a cemetery.

The third quarter results are due shortly and remembering that the economy grew [illegible] by 6.1 percent, there should be enough investment to produce good results. So there has been some buying on indigestion, e.g., GLI and TEL. However, do not get carried away because it is usually correct to BUY 2 to 3 weeks ahead of results and SELL just before. This works 9 0 percent of the time and is worth remembering.

For example, in Wall Street, 497 INC produced profits more than a times the previous quarter and the shares fell 4.3 percent. AIIG, second largest manufacturer of computer chips, beat analysts' estimates and dropped 11 percent. Investment is to take a brief position ahead of results so that when they are announced, there are no losers left, only sellers wanting to get out.

Greenspan, who is unfortunately retiring next month, is more worried about inflation than the short-term impact of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Consumer Price Index for September rose by a horrific 3.2 percent, the highest figure since 1991. However, after removing fuel and food, it was a tame 0.1 percent November. The huge rise in the price of crude oil and the even bigger rise in the price of natural gas threaten to reignite inflation into the economy next year, so the U.S. fed keeps hiking rates. Our central bank will probably follow suit once more.

Looking ahead, the outlook for our local market does not look promising. Our imports have been low three years on trouble and this indicates that our exports will also be low going forward. In July, export rose 11.5 percent, in August by only 0.4 percent. The AIBR said, means that GDP for the year will be 4.7 percent, well below government estimates, and for next year, only 4.3 percent. Record remittances have been holding up the peso.

We are awaiting the Supreme Court's final decision on the legality of the E-VAT bill. More to the point, we are waiting to see whether Congress will pass it or defer it until next June. We are also awaiting a decision on Executive Order No. 464 as this greatly affects the functions of the Senate. In the meantime, investors sit on the sidelines.

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Aug. loan growth slowest this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

LENDING BY THE COMMERCIAL banks went up by 2.2 percent in August to about P1.26 trillion from year-ago level on strong demand from the manufacturing industry, and the financial institutions, real estate and business services sectors (FinEst).

It was the slowest loan expansion seen since the start of the year, as year-on-year growth even hit more than 6 percent in May and June.

But Tetangco tweeted ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said that compared to a month ago, commercial bank loans even rose by 0.8 percent, a reversal of the 3 percent contraction in July.

Loans to FinEst remained the driver of the lending expansion, even booming more than half of the 2.2 percent annual lending growth during the period.

Lending to the manufacturing sector posted a modest 0.33 percent growth. The sector grabbed up about a fourth of total funds disbursed by commercial banks.

"The moderate expansion in bank lending for the months of July and August could be indicative of the moderate growth in real sector activity in the third quarter," Tetangco said.

Political uncertainties in the country intensified in July following the resignation of the expanded value added tax law's implementation and the resignation of key government economic managers.

Napocor to reduce dependence on oil

By Abigail L. Ho

AS PEOPLE FOR PESOS HOBBIES high and very volatile, National Power Corp. aims to bring down its dependence on oil-based power plants to only 4.9 percent next year from this year's 10.6 percent.

In a recent presentation, Napocor vice president for logistics Jose Carlos Gondoterras said that of the state firm's estimated 4,000 megawatt-hour generation of 60,000 gigawatt-hours (GWh) next year, less than 5 percent, or only 2,989 GWh, would come from oil-based plants.

Natural gas-fired plants would account for the biggest chunk of the generation mix at 36.6 percent or 22,346.6 GWh, followed by coal-fed plants at 25.3 percent or 15,307.9 GWh.

Geothermal power facilities will contribute 10.6 percent to the mix with 11,972.7 GWh, while hydropower plants will generate the remaining 13.4 percent of the mix at 8,142.7 GWh.

For this year, natural gas-fired plants would also be the biggest contributors to the mix at 22.1 percent or 19,071 GWh, followed by coal at 20 percent or 21,307 GWh, geothermal at 17.4 percent or 10,227 GWh, and hydro at 13.7 percent or 8,005 GWh.

Oil-based plants is expected to contribute only 6,303 GWh or 10.8 percent to the mix this year.

He noted that in 2002 and 2003, oil-based plants accounted for 13 percent and 13.3 percent of Napocor's generation mix.

BSP, Bank of Korea sign $1.5-B currency swap deal

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas yesterday signed a fresh $1.5-billion bilateral currency swap arrangement with the Bank of Korea as a buffer against sharp reversal in foreign capital flows in the region.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said the swap, which would be effective for the next two years starting Oct. 17, was a continuation of the mutual currency support program under the Chiang Mai initiative.

The BSP had a previous three-year currency swap deal with the Bank of Korea worth $1 billion that lapsed last Aug. 8.

"The new bilateral swap arrangement between the BSP and the Bank of Korea signals the continued solidarity of the Asian plus 3 member-countries in promoting regional stability," Tetangco said.

The increase in size, he added, would immediately provide balance of payments and short-term liquidity support when need arises.

The scheme allows the two countries to swap their currencies for US dollars worth up to $1.5 billion in case of emergency.

He said the new swap deal contained the measures taken by the Asian plus 3 to foster the effectiveness of the Chiang Mai Initiative, thereby ensuring its intended early thrust.

For instance, the amount of the swap without International Monetary Fund support/financing was increased from 10 to 20 percent.

Doris C. Dumlao

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chris Bonoan-Formoso

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Know about breast cancer and save a life

THE PHILIPPINE VASCULAR CLUB (PVC) and the Philippine Foundation for Breast Care, Inc., (PFBCI) conducted a seminar on breast cancer awareness recently at the Ateneo Professional School in Rockwell, Makati City. The seminar will continue: 2-5 p.m., Oct. 22, and 9 a.m.-12 noon, Oct. 29. Admission is free.

During the seminar, which was facilitated by image expert Abbygayle Arienza de Leon, part of the observances of Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October, participants were urged to be aware. In other word, Keep abreast.

According to the World Health Organization, the Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia.

Dr. Tita Sitoy, co-founder and president of PFBCI, stressed the importance of early detection for the successful treatment of breast cancer. Women, as early as age 20, should conduct breast self-examination once a month. Unusual lumps, visible change in breast and nipple appearance and bloody or clear discharge from the nipple, are some indications of breast cancer.

Women are also encouraged to visit the doctor for clinical breast examination from every six months to three years.

Toshihisa Tanaka, chief executive officer of PWC, said the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign was a significant move to help every woman conquer fatality.

PWC and PFBCI share the following clip-worthy facts about breast cancer with our readers.

Guidelines for early detection

Take monthly breast self-examination (BSE) seriously.

SSE is breast self-awareness. Starting at age 20, it is advisable to perform BSE on days seven to 10, counting from the first day of menstruation. Menopausal women should feel one day a month. Women with breast implants, are pregnant or breastfeeding should also perform BSE.

Perform in synapse BSE.

- Lie down flat. Place pillow under right shoulder. Place right arm behind head.
- Use the three fingertips of left hand to feel for mass or eight breast.
- Press firmly to know how your breast feels. Talk to your doctor if you are not sure on how hard to press.
- Move your fingers around the breast in a circular, up-and-down line, or wedge pattern. Do it the same way every time. Check the entire breast area up to the armpit. Remember how your breast feels from month to month.
- Repeat process on your left breast.

Seek clinical breast exam (CBE) periodically.

CBE is done by a doctor and should be part of a periodic health exam.

For non-high risk women:

- 20-39 years old: every three years
- 40 years old: every year

For high risk women:

- 20-39 years old: every six to 12 months
- 35 years old and above: every three to six months, or as advised by doctor

Submit yourself to screening mammography.

The examination is the best method to find early breast changes.

For non-high risk:

- 50 years old: every year

For high risk:

- Baseline mammogram at age 35, then every one to two years thereafter

Benefits of mammography

- Early diagnosis means only that cancer-resulting tissues is removed.
- Early detection of breast cancer increases chances of survival.
- Early diagnosis means better quality of life because it reduces the need for radical treatment.

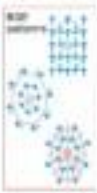
The Breast Cancer Awareness seminar will continue: 2-5 p.m., Oct. 22, and 9 a.m.-12 noon, Oct. 29. Admission is free.

Call 8663117, or e-mail philvas.confirm@pnet.net.

Risk factors

Breast cancer is curable if detected and treated early. Anything that increases your chance of getting breast cancer is called a risk factor. Consult your doctor if you are at risk for breast cancer:

- Older age (more than 50 years old)
- Have degree relative with breast cancer (mother, sister, daughter), especially if:
  - Early onset (diagnosed before 50 years old)
  - Bilateral (both sides)
  - Multiple first-degree affected members
- Hereditary breast cancer (BRCA 1/BRCA2 mutations)
- Personal history of breast cancer risk for the other breast
- History of exposure to ionizing radiation (like x-rays) during childhood
- Older age at first pregnancy (beyond 30 years old) or never given birth
- Early onset of menstruation (before 10 years old)
- Late menopause (beyond 50 years old)
- Postmenopausal obesity



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CHRISTINE San Diego and Myrza Sison, editor in chief of Metro Diaries

Fashionistas go on a rampage

GLORIA Diaz, Fortune Ledesma and Shelley Muhlach

BIMO de Rosario, Arden Aquino and Micky Corneal

LEO Po, Marialin Santos and Chris Yan

JILL Gorrell, Jamie Borja and Leslie Benzon

THE JINGLE QUARTETTE LADIES: Ivy Ahern, Cynch Javier, Bimbo Corrado and Pinky Marquez

THE FABULOUSLY successful launch said it all, palengke, Quiapo-style. It was a rampage, at cost both months past Updates, chequebooks and hotshots were gathered in expectation of what promised to be bedded, wedded and (not) deflowered in order to Cosmo Manila this year, darlings.

How Stella's fast-selling brand Rampage landed in Cinderella's flagship store in Glorietta. Brilliant Bobbie Cashmere, today's most in-demand director, did a superb job with some of our town's top models showing off fabulous Rampage outfits and posing like mannequins. Their precision of distraction pulled a rabbit outta dark screening the store's windows to reveal the live mannequins. So cool.

Apres the awesome opening, tons of young and young-at-heart rushed to the store to check out Rampage's hip-chic merchandise, palengke-Spanish discounts were given. Women of style shopped to their hearts' content. Swinging home several pieces that will surely make them stand out. Me got a cool shirt only, the super! lady of Marie Claire's fashionable office is chief Wynn Sison, no less, palengke.

Event gifts included makeup from sponsor Maybelline, Nokia phone from Smart, watches from Avenue Commercial Corp and accessories at the Ice Wind Resort in Boracay which lucky one event hoster with, palengke, plus samples of Kimbie and Nutrilite diet sweetness sweetened.

Guests enjoyed great pizza from California Pizza Kitchen, weekend prepared by Carolina Blue Belle graduate Kathleen Reyes Rubio and multitalented talented woman Aileen Isaac of the hotel-to-boat Joy Dairy Ice Cream, and Dom Perignon wine from The Wine Online Inc.

An after-show finale was held in Cinderella's custom bouquet, library, where tons of beautiful hats perched till why past Cinderella's earlier.

The whole evening was a fashionable love fest. Richie Santos got congratulatory kisses from enough women to last him till...the next major election Cinderella...natch.

Beaming with pride were the life-size duo of R's, Angelique Villanueva, extremely intelligent PR manager of Elevel, and multitalented business entrepreneur Archie Rodriguez, president of Collezioni Fine Kitchen.

Rampage is exclusively available in the Philippines through Cinderella Glorietta and shillering Town Center.

Grand sales

That lush, gorgeous Lion City, renowned worldwide for its fantastic monthly promotions, did it again, palengke, when it held grand sales all over the city. Chic-bi capacity shops offered up to 70 percent off on selected items.

And for the first time, shopping centers offering low-budget items, from Bugis Street to Holland Village, all joined the "sale-a-bration."

Hot shopping centers participated in the fantastic Great Singapore Sale's main event, palengke. Teams from eight Asian countries competed in the Singapore Shopping challenge grand finale for the cash prize of $$50,000.

Man, with that much-size attitude thermic Affair and his two sisters, Anne Andrada and Jaclyn Jose, represented the Philippines. Team-ate A. entered The preliminary ODI contest here in Manille. Having dumped the target amount in his Master Card in several palengke malls, he qualified for the grand finale...well he would.

In Hillbrenda style, Jaclyn and his two sisters, along with the other contestants, carefully covered malls to spend $$1,000, pushing the host bargains in Orchard's categories. The winner was the team that got the most to clothe savings. And the team got to keep all items. Cool huh?

Well, palengke, the Philippines spent a mere $$999 and got a total of $$5,700 in savings, making the ODIC. Yes, that's how it rolls here, darlings.

When I decided now with my friend Nanci Reed asked what their winning strategy was, Lori said, "As soon as we entered a store, we asked the sales person when the next highly discounted item was. And, we only entered stores that offered up to 40 percent discounts."

The three were so well-organized, they emerged champs! All the fab boys were done with their Master Card, natch!

Asked how he felt after the win, Hermie said, "Relieved! Invended values any more, girls?"

It's not just sales that lure shoppers to the malls of Singapore. Watch that MasterCard, the official card of $$$ for the second year running, always features great prizes for card holders from trips to Europe to a 21-minute text message at any DKM outlet, or free rides on the MasterCard bus, palengke!

Eco-friendly dance

Two non-government organizations, the Nature Science and Ecological Foundation Inc. (NSEF) headed by dashingly cyber-sound-managing director Paul Thibaud Lozano, and the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc. (PREC), with brother-hosts and president Gerardo Linares Lozano, will hold a bit dance and laugh concert on Dec. 22, 8:30 p.m., in the Grand Ballroom of the Manila Convention Plaza Area.

The event will feature "The Angelic Voices" composed of Queen Jember, Jose Marasigan, Bimbo Corrado and Patty Marquez.

This fundraiser is intended to assess funds PEOS as well as create awareness of the environmental crisis in Negros, palengke. Money raised from the event will be used to protect the resources and protect the environment of Negros Island.

This is so necessary, palengke, because if we do not cooperate in conservation programs, we will face circumstances with no worry for drinking and irrigation, shortages typhoons, frequent droughts, and hardly any fish to eat.

Help by being there, palengke. I know I will. Call 09.08-9229677!

RAGCHELLE Pardo

RAGCHELLE Pardo

PHILIPPINE champion duo James, Lori Carlos and Hermie Abby, Master Card world-class shoppers

YUANA Pucci (second right) sliding onto the "F" score Angel Aquino, Sheryl Cruz, Magnolia Ayhin and Marietta Segovia

SINGAPORE Tourism Board's Jaclyn Middleton, Liza Gonzales and Karina Chang and Mexico Continental rep Rolando Leyba and Judith Marie Reyes

Does seeing your double mean you are about to die?

"WHAT CAUSES A PERson to become unconscientiously? If you see your 'doppelganger' (your double)... is it true it means you are about to die? Or is it just a spirit urging to animate you? Is it possible to control or prevent this from happening so you don't start doing or saying things you are not aware of?"

First, let to define our terms so our heads know what we are talking about. Bilocation is a phenomenon where a person is seen in two distant places at the same time. There are numerous videos on facebook that are a double of himself in the same room. This is sometimes called "homeopty" to medical terms because you are seeing yourself in front on two of you.

Bilocation is possible because there are several "bodies" that constitute the human being, but are mystics say these are seven such bodies. Unfortunately, most are philosophy to many adults of two: the body and the spirit. In fact, the existence of the spiritual body is even denied by most scientists. They only recognize what can be seen, felt, weighed, measured and examined in the laboratory (SOBE).

You can't distort a person's body and reveal the doppelganger or the astral body. It does not exist on the physical plane. Therefore, it is denied.

Subtle body

The astral body is one of the subtle bodies constituting a human being. Sometimes, when freed or completely released to you, the astral body may detach itself from the physical body and go elsewhere. This is known as astral projection or out-of-body experience (OOBE).

The astral body is also called the "dense body" because it goes when the individual wants to go in his mind. Usually such out-of-body travels are done unconsciously and unintentionally.

When the astral body projects out of the physical and is seen by another person elsewhere, we say that person has a "bilocation." What is seen elsewhere is the astral body. The physical body remains where it is.

Usually one does not talk in his astral body. Somebody who projects his astral body may be portrayed that he or she is ignored. There are times, however, when a projected astral body can respond to greetings but in monosyllabic or nonsensical manner.

When I was working in a call-her-shoe manufacturing company in the early '80s, a female manager in our main branch in Cebu once told me persons can be seen in two places at the same time, although she was at home at that time. I told her not to be frightened because she must be hallucinated. It did not seem she was going crazy.

INNER AWARENESS

Jayne T. Dayaco

Then, I was working in a call-her-shoe manufacturing company in the early '80s, a female manager in our main branch in Cebu once told me persons can be seen in two places at the same time, although she was at home at that time. I told her not to be frightened because she must be hallucinated. It did not seem she was going crazy.

Changing needs, new solutions

SUMMERS: IN THE FIELD OF WELLness are rapidly emerging, answering the growing and changing needs of the modern world.

Here are a few:

Biopro Q-Link

Electromagnetic frequencies (EMF) commonly called electromagnetic pollution and telecommunication radiation (EMR) are emitted by electrical and electronic devices like cellular phones, computers, microwave, television, hairdryer, refrigerator, electric fans, cordless phones, alarm clocks, refrigerators, toasters.

Scientists warn that prolonged exposure to EMF may lead to stress, poor mental functioning, immune system dysfunction and other neurological and biological health problems.

The United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) adopted the term "biofield" in 1994 to refer to the bio-energetic phenomenon of layered energies that extend around the human body.

It appears that biofield plays a major role in how a person copes with stress, subsilow emotional, mental, physical or chemical. Biofield is compromised by constant exposure to EMF.

Researchers have found that we are exposed to 140 million times more EMF than our grandparents.

To address this problem, Biopro Technology, a US-based company, offers the Q-Link, a breakthrough technology that uses harmonizing chips in its various products—pendants, cell phone, cars, appliances, computer instruments—to strengthen the biofield and increase its protective energy envelope.

The Q-Link has a strong following from people like Dr. Deepak Chopra, Madonna, Celine Dion. It is said that users of this product sleep better, are more mentally alert and suffer less from jet lag and stress. Contact Jean Biddell Jr., Biopro Asia, at 911.5812 or 0916.2063471, or e-mail www.biopro-technology.com

Goodbye arthritic pain

When normal cushioning is lost in joints and vertebrae, bones and cartilage scrape against each other. The result: problems with mobility and flexibility as well as pain.

Who could expect that a combination of glucosamine, an amino sugar normally found in the body from glucose, and chondroitin sulphate, a natural supplement, could relieve inflammation, stimulate lubrication in joints and tissue and relieve pain?

The two substances are produced by the body in small amounts. Natural and synthetic. Early efforts aimed at using osteoarthritis in sequin, treated 4 healthy cartilage with these things under the inflammation, prostaglandins in thread-like tissue that resembles collagen to attract and hold water, and collagen to keep the proteoglycan in place.

According to Vitamin Digest Revised Edition 2000, the world's most reliable vitamin guide written by Dr. Earnest Pick, the Glucosamine-Chondroitin combination includes helping repair damaged tissues, ligaments and muscles, relieving inflamed spinal discs and symptoms of osteoarthritis.

It's Tilt, the names of a natural supplement that is a non-chemical way to address the problem of osteoarthritis, a form distributed by Indeed Herbs. Contact Rosie Roque at 09068.20 or 0922.8870731.

Hello radiant skin

Imagine a clinic run exclusively for your face, a clinic equipped with the latest skin care technology aiming to rejuvenate skin. Orabel Facial Recovery Center opened in the Victoria Galleria of Filinvest Business Park in Alabang.

The center uses rare and cosmetic packages comes from Japan, with product lines designed for every skin type and to suit individual needs. The Japan dermatology treatment uses the newest equipment in a non-invasive way, the hot beam, a type of micro-massaging and vibrating using ultrasonic vibrations of up to 28,000 times per second. Face and neck get the most shiny skincare with a 1, 2, 3 beam package, for a pleasant and painless, and guaranteed to lift you in deep. Call Rosie, Ya at 77.14506 or 0917.1054606.

After just one session, there is visible difference in your skin condition.

Family Wellness Festival

The ABS-CBN Foundation presents "Love, Love and Loves" to promote wellness Nov. 12-13 at the La Mesa Ecopark, a project of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation. The event will feature a pan-festival with Richard Hitch and friends, wellness lectures on shipping tracks, traditional medicine, mandalorian, Zen meditation, cancer prevention, good work, healing, yoga, spiritual healing, nutritional healing, wellness—inside and out—and fitness. Speakers include Iroot Rivera, Gina Lopez, Boy Fajardo, Manel Francisco, Rosario Jandra, Sister Sonia Panlilio, Rhia Ortiz, Agnes Pe'ato, Frank Rego, Tina Jara and yours truly.

Today's affirmation:

"I claim the light and reject the darkness."

"Love and light"

The world's longest buffet

On Oct. 22, healthy and delicious food fare will be made available in Eastwood City as it attempts to set a Guinness world record. For inquiries, call 6076770.

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

The Philippines is attempting a Guinness World Record for the longest buffet

Empowering women of all ages

SINGER FELIX GONZALES and fitness expert Chingpet Andrada are two women who believe in the importance of keeping their bones strong.

With both busy with their entrepreneurial, keeping fit is a priority.

Both women drink milk, especially Anlene, to ensure that their bones are strong enough to support their busy lifestyles.

Complex says Anlene helps girls but maintain to continue her singing career. Andrada relies on the milk to keep her going as she teaches kickboxing twice a week and revels in her free aerobic, television host and magazine editor.

Drinking milk has been identified as a way to prevent osteoporosis or brittle bones that make people, particularly women, more prone to fractures. Milk supplies the calcium the body needs to keep the bones strong.

Osteoporosis prevention has to start early so Anlene encourages women to develop the habit of drinking milk as early as possible.

And since the problem can affect all women regardless of the climate they have, Anlene also recommends milk drinking for everyone.

ANLENE Women of Inner Strength: Elena de Roxas, dancer Jun Hidalgo Pludaig, Anlene nutritionist Chinggay Andrada, Joyce Lim, Anlene's assistant brand manager Christine Dizon and marketing manager Cherith Centeno

Clinic issues VIP cards

BORACAY MEDICAL CARE INITIATE now offers an exclusive VIP Card that entitles members to several benefits.

Holders get free general medical consultations, fixed fees for specialist consultations and an annual check-up, a 10-percent discount on laboratory and other diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

BMCI HD Card members can also avail themselves of a one-time full medical examination package that includes history taking, physical examinations, complete blood count, chest X-ray, urinalysis and stool exam. They will also be eligible to join exclusive wellness programs and promotions of BMCI.

For the whole month of October, the BMCI VIP card is available at a special discounted rate of only P3,000. The regular price of the BMCI HD Card is P3,250.

BMCI is a state-of-the-art multi-specialty, diagnostic and multidisciplinary medical center at the Universidad Eastwood, Quezon City. It is open 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Call 687.1000/1546-1779.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Kneeling mini-ball squeezes

THIS EXERCISE WORKS TO TIGHTEN your inner thighs and buttocks.

Equipment
Exercise mat and mini-ball

Exercise technique
1. Kneel down with your thighs hip-width apart.
2. Place the ball in between your ankles.
3. Keep your torso erect as you press the ball firmly between your ankles by squeezing and releasing your buttocks and inner thigh muscles.

Performance tips
1. Treat the movement by squeezing your buttocks and inner thighs rather than squeezing with your ankles.
2. Avoid slouching.
3. A fun exercise and it a must to send you to the toilet-trips.

Repetitions
Do 20 repetitions.

The 'write' way to lose weight

Writing down what you eat makes you aware of what you are eating

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT PEOPLE TEND TO overestimate the amount of exercise they do and underestimate the amount of food they eat. That's why some people have a hard time losing weight even though they "hardly" eat and they exercise "all the time."

If you are one of those people, the solution is to use the power of the pen. Keeping records of what you eat and how often you exercise has been proven effective. Researchers found that people who were most consistent in writing down what they are during the Christmas season lost an average of seven pounds while those who did not consistently write down what they ate gained about three pounds.

Food awareness

Writing down what you eat serves two purposes. One, it makes you aware of what you are eating, a food diary can help you close up your daily diet of all the calories that you don't need.

Every calorie that goes into your mouth is

WELL AND GOOD
Vina Chan

important if you are trying to lose weight. The small chill to cookie here, a bite of ice cream there adds up quite quickly and is often "forgotten" when accounting for where all the day's calories went.

Write down every single thing that you put in your mouth, no matter how small. It is best to write down what you ate as soon as you do it. Don't wait till the end of the day to write everything down. It may sound unbelievable but by that time you are already have "eating amnesia."

Tell the truth. The worst error that you can do is fib. There is no one to trys to deceive.

The second purpose of a food diary is to make you aware of what you are not eating. Nutritionists say we need a minimum of five servings of fruits and vegetables daily. The ideal is nine to 13 servings. Many people don't even eat the minimum.

If you have the opportunity chose the diary to a nutritionist. She can tell you whether your eating habits are nutritionally sound or not. You will find out if you are getting enough vitamins and minerals from your food.

Food and mood

One of the reasons people gain weight is they eat when they are sad, mad, glad or scared. Boredom, stress and pressure at work or school are other triggers.

If you want to break out if you are using food as an emotional crutch, write down what you are feeling when you eat. Also write down whether you are physically hungry. Keeping track of your moods and your actual hunger level gives you a clue to whether you are eating for physical or emotional reasons.

By becoming aware of your emotional dependence on food, you can develop other coping mechanisms to deal with boredom or stress.

Exercise diary

According to the American Council on Exercise's Lifestyle and Weight Management Manual, many experts believe that record-keeping is an invaluable component of an exercise and weight management program. People feel more responsible for their exercise goals and don't want to "miss" them constantly leaving empty-lots.

Keeping an exercise diary can be as simple as marking the days you exercise on a desk or wall calendar or as complicated as keeping a record of weight lifted, sets and repetitions.

Breaking a bad habit

Habits are unconscious behavior patterns done from repeated acts in by many repetitions. That's why they are so hard to stop.

Monitoring your behavior by keeping a journal is a proven way to help break a bad habit or start a good one, according to Robert Epstein, psychology professor and author of "Pass Fit now: Body Mind Magic".

Keeping a record may sound like an overly simplistic answer to a complicated problem like a long-time bad habit but Epstein says four decades of psychology research have proven self-monitoring to be highly effective.

For example, if you bite your nails, record exactly how many times a day you bite them. If you pull your hair, place the pulled hairs in an envelope and count them at the end of the day. Do the same with your cigarette butts if you are trying to stop smoking. If you say "you know" all the time, Epstein suggests counting how many times you say it by making a mote in a piece of paper in your pocket.

He says monitoring your behavior will help you change your habit because it makes you realize what you are doing. You cannot change something that you are not even aware of doing in the first place.

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Sugar screenings scheduled

HEALTHY OPTIONS, IN PARTNERSHIP with Lifescan, a Johnson & Johnson company, is conducting the Sugar Check campaign until Oct. 29.

Customers get free glucose screenings in Healthy Options branches as part of the chain's diabetes awareness campaign.

Nurses Lifescan pioneered the second generation of blood glucose monitoring systems with its One Touch® blood glucose meters.

The Sugar Check Information campaign on the prevention and management of diabetes will be conducted in branches in Festival Supermall, Alabang (Oct. 22), SM City Manila (Oct. 23), and Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong (Oct. 29).

All blood glucose screenings are scheduled, 4-5 p.m. Customer advisors and Johnson & Johnson staff members will answer customer questions on diabetes and how to prevent it in participating branches.

Diabetes is a chronic disease characterized by an increase in blood sugar levels that can result in long-term damage and failure of organs, especially the eyes, kidneys, nerves, heart and blood vessels.